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

**Forty-Forth Meeting
30 July – 3 August 2012, Yokohama, Japan**

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

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 The Expert Panel 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 Forty-fourth 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 Forty-fourth Expert Panel was attended by members listed in **Appendix IV**. Ms. Eudeline Melet (France) chaired the meeting.

3. APPRAISAL PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

- 3.1 In accordance with past practice, each project or pre-project proposal was introduced by two Panel members (one from a Producer country and one from a Consumer 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.
- 3.2 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**).
- 3.3 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 Thirty-eight (38) projects and seven (7) pre-projects (total of 45) proposals were received for appraisal by the Forty-fourth Expert Panel. The overall list of 45 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 (30), then with those related to Economic Information and Market Intelligence (7) and finally with those related to Forest Industry (8). This arrangement facilitated the appraisal as well as the formulation of the overall assessment and specific recommendations for each proposal listed in **Annex III** 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 meetings' 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 Forty-fourth Expert Panel, as derived from the appraisal of all 45 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 45 proposals and the success of this Forty-fourth Panel were made possible.

5. GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding n°1: The Panel noted that the **quality** of the proposals was **unequal** which is reflected by the fact that:

- sixteen (16) proposals: 1 pre-project and 15 projects (36 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;
- eleven (11) proposals: 2 pre-projects and 9 projects (24 percent of the total) will be sent back to proponents for essential revisions, rated as category 2;
- one (1) project proposal (2 percent of the total) received a category 3, indicating that the project requires a pre-project to better formulate a new proposal;
- seventeen (17) project proposals: 4 pre-projects and 13 projects (38 percent of total) were commended to the Committee for final appraisal with minor modifications required (category 1), nine (9) were new projects and eight (8) were revised submissions.

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

Besides, the Panel also noted the **high share of projects dealing with reforestation and forest management** (RFM), namely 67%, see chart next.

Finding n°1bis: It is to be noted that **around half of the proposals which received a category 1, are revised ones** (proposals that had received a category 2 at previous expert panels). This accounts for the relatively higher share of category 1 proposals in comparison with previous expert panels.

Finding n°2: The Panel deplored the **poor formulation of a high share of project proposals** leading to their being either rejected as category 4 or sent back as category 2 with a significant number of major amendments. These proposals failed to follow **the guidance** of the third Edition of the **ITTO Manual for Project Formulation** (GI Series 13).

On the contrary, some proposals were **well formulated**, namely those proposals that **did follow the guidance** of the ITTO Manual. Thus, Benin, though a new member of ITTO, submitted well-formulated proposals.

Finding n°3: Some project proposals dealt with rather **innovative ideas on new features** i.e. the development of NTFPs.

Finding n°4: It is to be deplored that the **gender issue** is not properly taken into account.

Finding n°4bis: **Communities and livelihoods are put forward** as key words in many proposals **however the actual contents fail to actually account for it**. Thus giving the general feeling that communities are more used as cosmetics than included into the proposal. Proponents should refer to the third Edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (GI Series 13) to properly take the communities into account.

Finding n°5: Some proposals are **not clear about what they want to achieve**. Key words such as REDD, climate change, communities, holistic, etc. are put forward while their deeper contents remain vague and their budget rather high.

Findings n°5bis: A number of project proposals charge a **high share of personnel costs to ITTO**. Thus, the changes that can be brought by such projects after completion are not evident.

Finding n°6: **ITTO guidelines** are not used by many proponents: i.e. those on forest management, restoration, etc.

Recommendation n°1: There is need for a **mechanism to improve the quality of project proposals**, the panel suggests to that effect:

- a – continuing the **training** on project formulation, practice shows that it really has an impact;
- b – recalling the importance of national **focal points** and also **clearing house mechanisms at the national level** as suggested in Decision 3(XXXVII) 1.(i) due to their obvious added value in carrying out a first screening thus passing forward better quality proposals.

Recommendation n°2: The Panel suggests **focal points' venues** to better respond to recommendations. The involvement in monitoring of proposals is also suggested.

Recommendation n°3: The Panel stresses the importance of knowing what is the **purpose** of the project and not just the activities. Expected changes should be emphasized rather than what is done in practice.

Recommendation n°4: The Panel noted that category 4 groups quite a number of project proposals and points that there is thus no possibility to distinguish between poorly formulated proposals due to rather cosmetic work or due to lack of capacity to formulate proposals. The Panel also came across well-formulated proposals but, however, irrelevant to ITTO. The Panel thus feels that **revising the categories could be explored**.

General conclusions: The Panel acknowledged that **similar findings and recommendations had been passed on for a couple of times** and wonders if it should continue to stress the same. The Panel recalled the limited reactions from member countries at the last Council session when it had been passed on: only Swiss, Guatemala and Indonesia commented.

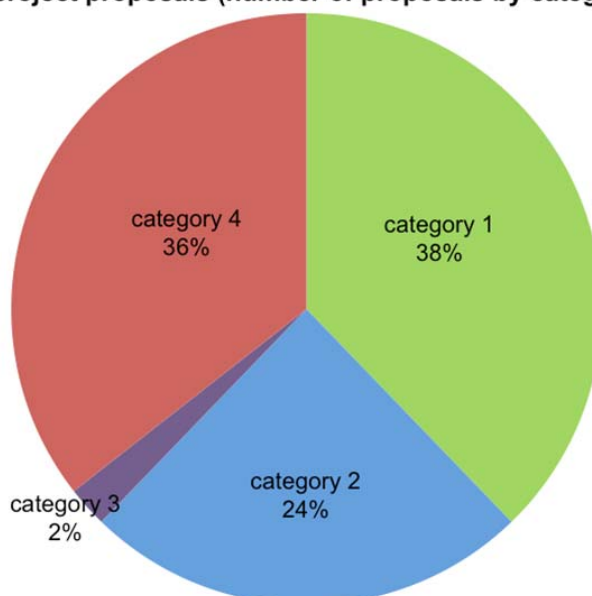
6. EXPERIENCE FROM APPLICATION OF THE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

As already pointed out by the report of the 39th session of the 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:

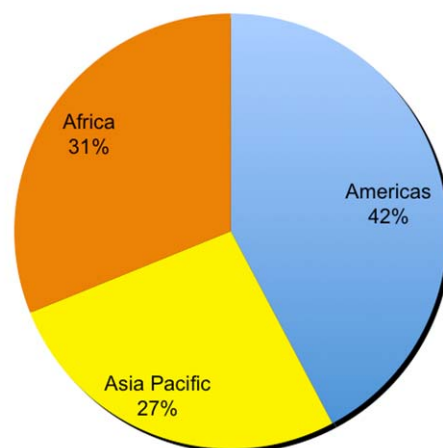
Decision of the 44th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project proposals (number of proposals by category)



Summary of Project and Pre-project proposals submitted to the Forty-fourth Expert Panel by Region

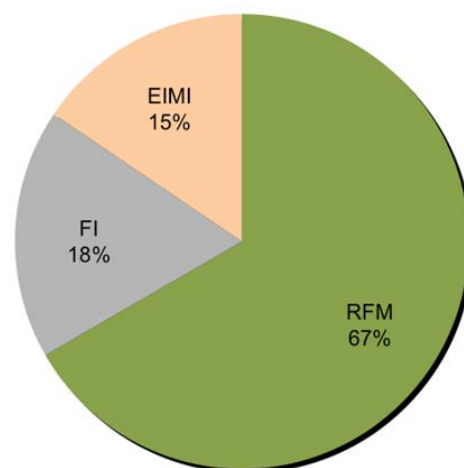
Region	Project Proposals				Pre-project Proposals				Total
	RFM	FI	EIMI	Total	RFM	FI	EIMI	Total	
<i>Americas</i>	11	2	3	16	1	2	-	3	19
<i>Asia Pacific</i>	9	2	-	11	1	-	-	1	12
<i>Africa</i>	6	2	3	11	2	-	1	3	14
Total	26	6	6	38	4	2	1	7	45

RFM = Reforestation and Forest Management
 FI = Forest Industry
 EIMI = Economic Information and Market Intelligence



Decisions of the 44th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project proposals by Committee Area

Category	Committee			Total
	RFM	FI	EIMI	
<i>Projects</i>				
1	8	3	2	13
2	6	1	2	9
3	-	1	-	1
4	12	1	2	15
Total	26	6	6	38
<i>Pre-projects</i>				
1	2	2	-	4
2	2	-	-	2
4	-	-	1	1
Total	4	2	1	7



Decisions of the 44th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project proposals by Submitting Country

Country	Category				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Brazil	(1)	-	-	1	2
Benin	(1)+1	-	-	-	2
Cambodia	1	-	-	-	1
Colombia	-	1	-	1	2
China	1	-	-	1	2
Cote d'Ivoire	-	-	-	1	1
Gabon	-	1	-	3	4
Ghana	1	1	-	1	3
Guatemala	2	-	1	-	3
Honduras	-	-	-	2	2
Indonesia	1	(1)+2	-	-	4
Liberia	-	-	-	(1)	1
Malaysia	1	-	-	1	2
Mexico	-	(1)+1	-	1	3
PNG	-	1	-	1	2
Peru	(1)+2	2	-	2	7
Philippines	1	-	-	-	1
Togo	(1)+2	-	-	-	3
Total	(4)+13	(2)+9	1	(1)+15	45

Note: Parenthesis indicates a 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 Economic Information and Market Intelligence, 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 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 2008-2011 including:
 - ITTO Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, 1990;
 - Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Production Forests, 1993;
 - Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in 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; and
 - ITTO Mangrove Work Plan 2002-2006.

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
Forty-fourth Expert Panel

Project No.	Title	Country	Category
PPD 151/11 Rev.2 (F)	Support to the Local Communities of the Mono Plain for the Promotion and Sustainable Management of Community Forests in Togo	Togo	1
PD 609/11 Rev.2 (F)	Implementation of a Participatory Bushfire Prevention and Management System in Togo	Togo	1
PD 605/11 Rev.2 (F)	Research and Demonstration on Fire-Break Forest Belt Models Optimization in China's Tropical Forest Region	China	1
PD 611/11 Rev.2 (F)	Demonstration on Forest Ecotourism Based on Community to Enhance Environmental Services and Local Livelihoods in Hainan Province, China	China	4
PD 641/12 Rev. 1 (F)	Improved Governance and Low-Impact Forest Management in the Sierra Madre – Selva Zoque Corridor: A Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Phase 1 – State of Chiapas)	Mexico	2
PD 618/11 Rev.2 (F)	Establishment of Spatial Forest Resources Information System (Spa-Fris) in West Papua Province	Indonesia	1
PD 635/12 Rev.1 (F)	Development of Guidelines for Buffer Zone Management for Pulong Tau National Dr. Park and Involvement of Local Communities in Management, Sarawak, Malaysia	Malaysia	1
PPD 162/12 (F)	Developing model of a self sufficient FMU to implement sustainable forest operations	Indonesia	2
PPD 163/12 (F)	Assessing Growth and Yield Rates of Major Commercial Species for the Adjustment of Forest Management Programs in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico	Mexico	2
PPD 165/12 (F)	Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin	Benin	1
PD 628/11 Rev.2 (F)	Strengthening of Forest Management Practices of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala	Guatemala	1
PD 616/11 Rev.1 (F)	Building capacity to participate in emerging REDD+ opportunities – a pilot action learning initiative in the Adelbert Mountains, Madang Province of PNG	PNG	2
PD 623/11 Rev.2 (F)	Production and Availability of Teak Clone Varieties: Development of Improved Plant Material for Reforestation in Togo	Togo	1
PD 645/12 Rev.1 (F)	Promoting Forest Management At Site Level In Rinjani Barat	Indonesia	2
PD 646/12 Rev.1 (F)	Initiating The Conservation Of Cempaka Tree Species (Elmerrillia ovalis (Miq.) Dandy) Through Plantation Development With Local Community Participation In North Sulawesi, Indonesia	Indonesia	2
PD 654/12 (F)	Forest Communities, Production and Governance in Antioquia, Colombia – an Exercise in the Corregimiento of Puerto Lopez, Municipality of El Bagre, as a Model for the Magdalena River Forest Reserve	Colombia	4
PD 657/12 (F)	Pilot Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Threatened Broadleaved Forest Species with a View to Biodiversity Conservation	Honduras	4
PD 659/12 (F)	Strengthening Forest Management as a Basis for the Reactivation of the Forest Sector in Honduras Through Sustainable Development in 5 Pilot Units of Atlantida and Mosquitia (Broadleaved Forest) and Francisco Morazan, Olancho and Yoro (Coniferous Forest) Regions	Honduras	4

PD 663/12 (F)	Zoning and Sustainable Management of the Buffer Zone of Minkebe National Park to Contribute to the Transboundary Conservation of the Tridom Area	Gabon	4
PD 664/12 (F)	Regional Project to Promote Reduced Impact Logging in Peru	Peru	2
PD 665/12 (F)	Implementation of a Fire Prevention and Control Plan for the Central Amazon Region in Peru	Peru	2
PD 666/12 (F)	Management Model for the Protection and Sustainable Management and Harvesting of Forest Concession Areas in the Provinces of Tambopata and Manu, Madre de Dios, Peru	Peru	4
PD 667/12 (F)	Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest Management by Rural Communities in Peru	Peru	4
PD 668/12 (F)	Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity in the Tacaná Volcano and its Range of Influence in Mexico and Guatemala	Guatemala	1
PD 669/12 (F)	Reducing forest degradation and emissions through integrated sustainable management and rehabilitation of coastal mangroves areas in Malaysia	Malaysia	4
PD 673/12 (F)	Strengthening the Capacity in Forest Law Enforcement and Governance of the Permanent Forest Estates in Kratie and Monduliri Provinces of Cambodia	Cambodia	1
PD 675/12 (F)	Promotion of Reduced-Impact Logging Techniques and Wildlife Management in the Forest Concessions of Gabon	Gabon	4
PD 679/12 (F)	Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Enhancement of Environmental Services and Socioeconomic Conditions in the Municipality of Papantla, in the Totonaca Area of the State of Veracruz, Mexico	Mexico	4
PD 680/12 (F)	Reforestation Using Cassia Simea in Combination with Subsistence Crops	Cote d'Ivoire	4
PD 681/12 (F)	Restoration of Timber Resources with Indigenous Tree Species in Cocoa Landscapes for Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation	Ghana	4
PPD 149/11 Rev.2 (M)	Pre-Scoping Study in the Planning and Conduct of Social Audits of Logging Concessions in Liberia, Ensuring that Liberia's Forest Concessions are Right, Pro-poor and Tenure-based	Liberia	4
PD 621/11 Rev.2 (M)	Traceability of Timber Produced by Forest Concessions and Native Communities in Madre de Dios and Ucayali	Peru	1
PD 640/12 Rev.1 (M)	Implementation of an Action Plan for Sustainable Forest Management through Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Colombia	Colombia	2
PD 633/12 Rev.1 (M)	Fruits of African Forests - Group 6 within the PROTA Programme	Gabon	2
PD 658/12 (M)	Tropical Forest Products Markets and Sustainable Forest Management in the Eastern Brazilian Amazon	Brazil	4
PD 662/12 (M)	Promotion of Sino-African Collaboration through Improved Forest Governance in the Congo Basin	Gabon	4
PD 678/12 (M)	Establishment of a National Forest Statistics Information Management System in Benin	Benin	1
PD 551/09 Rev.2 (I)	National Training Program to Promote the Adoption of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) in Papua New Guinea	PNG	4
PPD 161/12 (I)	Formulation of a Project Proposal for the Development of the Tara (Caesalpinia spinosa) Production Chain in the Andean Region (Peru and Ecuador)	Peru	1
PPD 164/12 (I)	Bamboo Technology Eco-Park in Acre/Brazil (TECBAM)	Brazil	1
PD 655/12 (I)	Capacity Building of the Builders' Woodworks Industry in the Philippines	Philippines	1
PD 660/12 (I)	Enhancing Industrial and Community Utilization of Wood residues from timber Processing Mills for Improved Livelihood in Ghana	Ghana	2

PD 661/12 (I)	Towards Sustainable Utilization of Bamboo Resource in Ghana: Development of Glued Bamboo Beams and Boards for Affordable Housing and Furniture in Ghana through Collaboration with Local Communities in Two Districts	Ghana	1
PD 671/12 (I)	Boosting Investments in the Processing and Marketing of Forest Products in Atalaya	Peru	1
PD 672/12 (I, F)	Silvicultura Industrial en el Norte del departamento de Huehuetenango, Guatemala	Guatemala	3

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORTY-FORTH MEETING OF THE EXPERT PANEL
FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF PROJECT PROPOSALS
Yokohama, 30 July - 3 August 2012

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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.	Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities			Y	
1.	2.	2.	Relevance to the submitting Country's policies			Y	
2.	JUSTIFICATION OF PRE-PROJECT (15)						
2.	1.		Objectives		15	Y 9	
2.	1.	1.	Development objective	5			
2.	1.	2.	Specific objective	5			
2.	2.		Preliminary problem identification	5			
3.	PRE-PROJECT INTERVENTIONS (25)						
3.			Outputs and activities		10	Y 7	
3.	1.		Outputs	5			
3.	2.		Activities, inputs and unit costs	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:

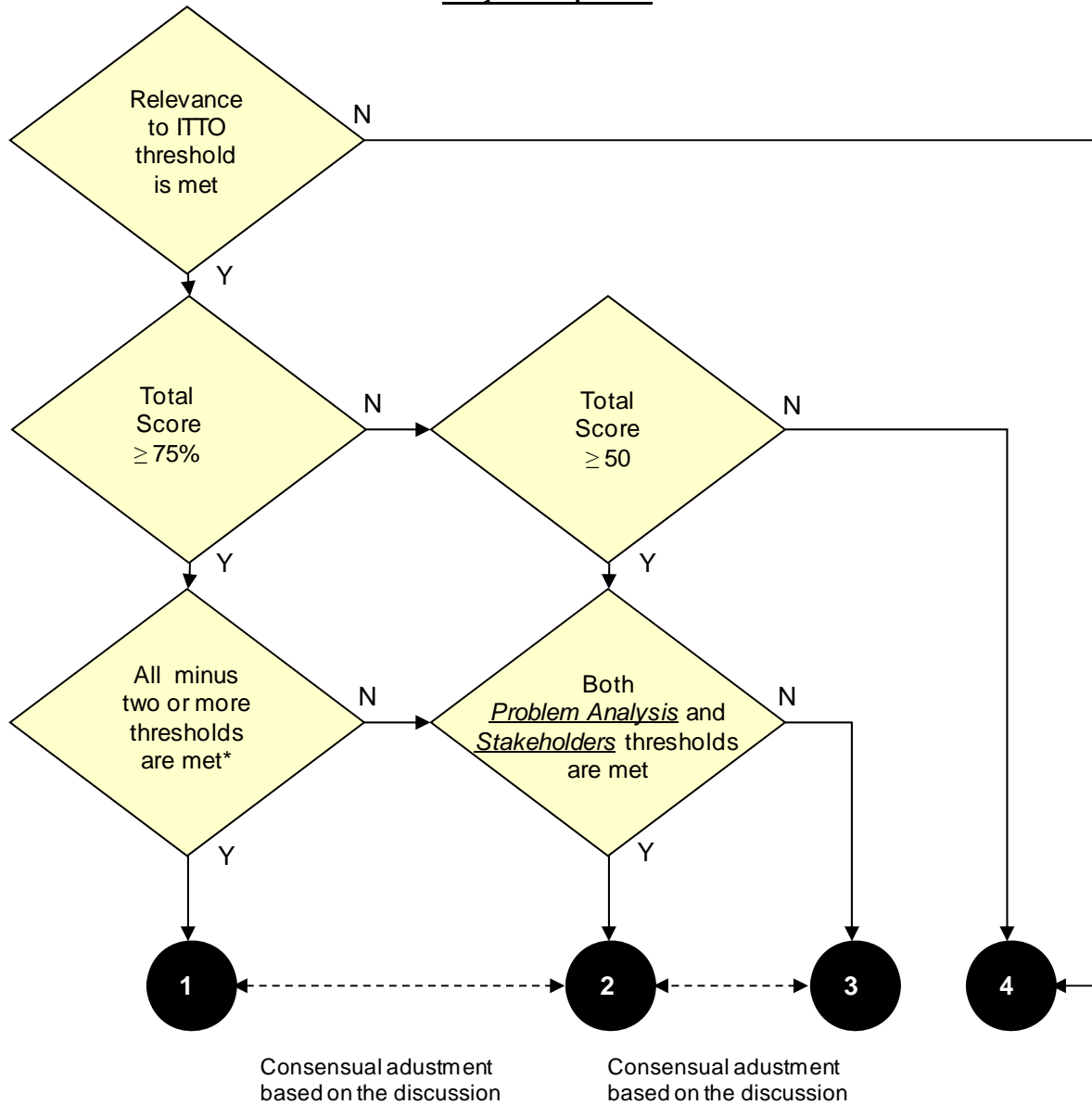
- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate 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 3:	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

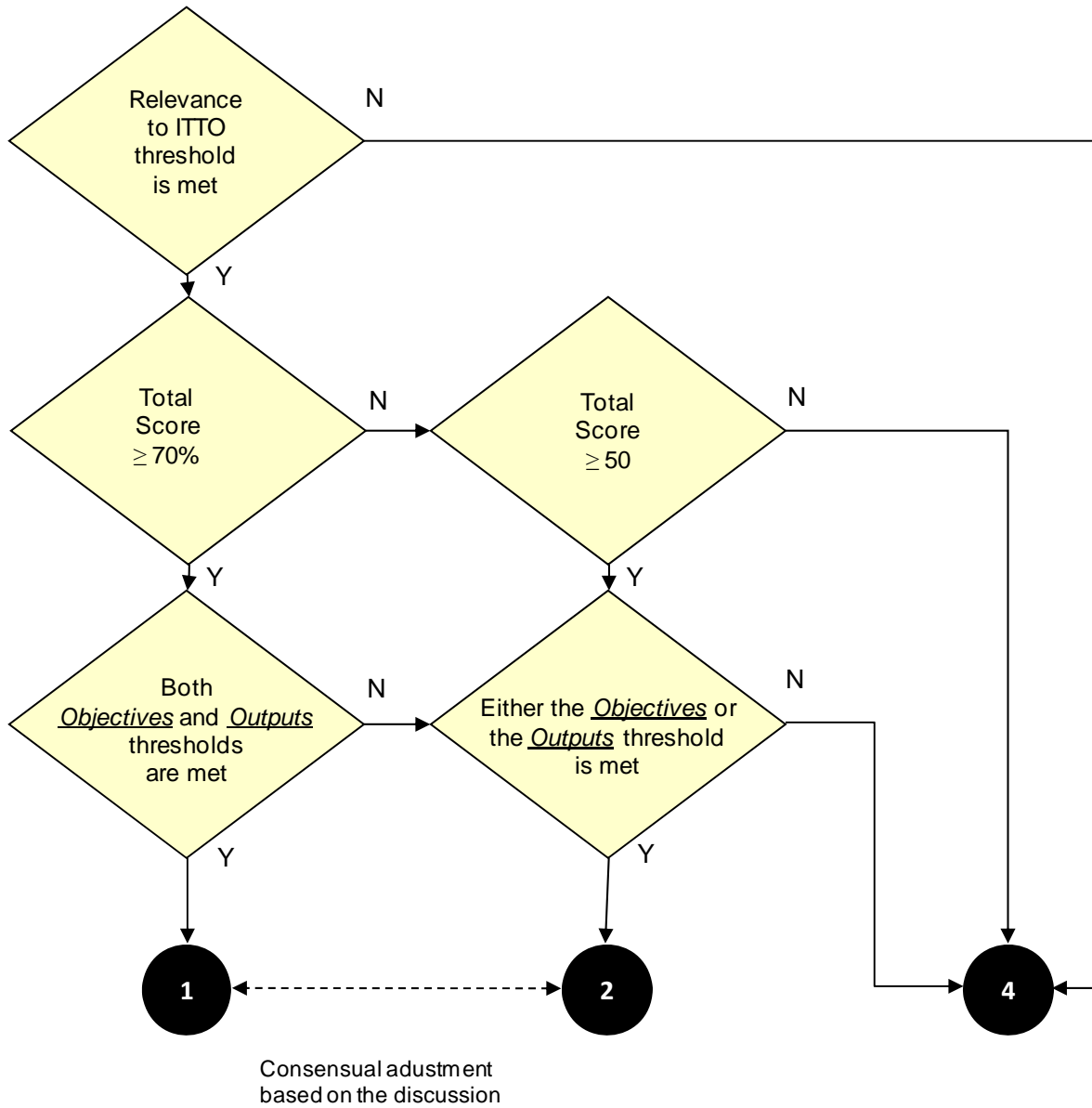


*Thresholds failed cannot be any two among the following three:

- 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 Forty-fourth Expert Panel on
each Project and Pre-project proposal**

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that all recommendations of the Forty-third Expert Panel had been addressed in the revised proposal. However, the Panel noted that there was still room for further improvement in particular with regard to the impact indicators of the logical framework matrix, engagement of local communities and the sustainability of the project. The Panel also expressed concern about the effective use of existing research results relating to the establishment and management of fire-break forest belts in south China or other countries. Moreover, the Panel felt that given the project duration, the focus of the project work should be made to the demonstration and extension of fire-break forest belts technology in Guangdong Province rather than conducting new research.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Provide further information on the main findings of previous research relating to the establishment and management of fire-break forest belts to ensure the validity of the proposed demonstration work;
2. Further improve the impact indicators that will be used to measure how the project is contributing to the achievement of the development objective. The indicators should be focused on the direct long-term effects of the project in a specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bound way;
3. Consider amending the project title focusing on demonstration and extension which would be main part of the project activities. Due attention should be given to the wider use of research findings rather than conducting a new research due to the limited project duration;
4. Further strengthen the full and effective engagement of local communities in the establishment and management of fire-break forest belts in the project site;
5. Further improve the sustainability of the project by specifying institutional arrangements to ensure the further development of the activities initiated by the project; and
6. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 the incorporation of amendments.

PD 609/11 Rev.2 (F) Enhancement of the Participatory Bushfire Prevention and Management System in Togo

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the efforts made by the proponent to address the overall assessment and specific recommendations of its Forty-third meeting, resulting in the improvement of some components of the revised project proposal. However, the Panel recognized that there was still a need to address some remaining weaknesses in order to further improve some sections and sub-sections of the revised project proposal.

The weaknesses noticed were as follows: confusion on the number of prefectures and sub-prefectures to be involved in the project implementation (15 or 22?) and criteria for the selection of these administrative entities; map of the entire country on scale not allowing to read and interpret it adequately; social, cultural and economic aspects were too general instead of being specifically correlated to the target project area; intended changes were not described in the section regarding expected outcomes after project completion which should not be a description of expected outputs; stakeholder analysis in which communities and private re-foresters were considered each as a homogeneous group; problem analysis elaborated as a narrative version of the problem tree instead of providing the explanation on the vertical logic of the problem tree (cause-effect link) in correlation with the primary stakeholders; logical framework matrix with non-measurable indicators for the development and specific objectives as the baseline was not provided in the revised version of the project proposal; clarify activities; budget items to be adjusted in line with modifications.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Clarify the criteria for the selection of and the number of prefectures and sub-prefectures to be involved in the project implementation (15 or 22?) (and be consistent throughout the proposal);
2. Enhance the social, cultural and economic aspects in correlation with the target project area;
3. Improve the problem analysis and problem tree by providing the explanation on the vertical logic of the problem tree (cause-effect link) in correlation with the primary stakeholders' involvement; rewrite the outcomes to reflect more intended changes rather than describe outputs; clarify activities to better understand what is going to be carried out;
4. Work on the logical framework matrix by adequately enhancing the indicators of the development and specific objectives in a way to get them to be specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bound (SMART);
5. Elaborate the stakeholders' analysis and stakeholders' table breaking down the group of communities and that of private reforesters, as they should not be considered each as a homogeneous group;
6. Revise the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations; budget item related to sub-contracts uneasy to understand because the terms of reference for sub-contracts lacks relevant technical information; recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of 8% of the total ITTO project costs (on the sum of budget items 10 to 82); and
7. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 44th 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 the incorporation of amendments.

PD 611/11 Rev.2 (F)

Demonstration on Community-Based Forest Ecotourism to Enhance Environmental Services and Local Livelihoods in Hainan Province, China

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project was reformulated in a small-scale proposal to promote community-based forest ecotourism in Hainan Province. The Panel noted that an attempt had been made to address all specific recommendations made by Forty-third Expert Panel but most of the recommendations were not adequately addressed in the revised proposal. Baseline information on the potential of developing forest ecotourism in the project site in Hainan Province was insufficient, making it difficult to assess the essential components of the revised proposal. The development and specific objectives as reformulated were still unclearly defined and the relationship between them was not logical. In the problem analysis, the presentation of the key problem was mixed with the enhancement of environmental services and local livelihoods in forest-dependent communities and key barriers to promote forest ecotourism were not systematically identified as causes of the key problem. The revised specific objective was still vague by linking with the enhancement of environmental services which would be an effect of the project. The identification of two Outputs was not consistent with the problem analysis and the statements of Outputs 1 and 2 were not definite about what will be achieved. Project activities and budget did not clearly include the dissemination of project outcomes although it was recommended strengthening the dissemination strategies.

Given the above observations in particular with regard to the lack of basic information on the potential of developing forest ecotourism in the project site in Hainan Province as well as weak problem analysis in the revised proposal, the Panel was not in a position to commend the revised proposal for further appraisal. The Panel thought that substantial improvements of the revised proposal should be made according to the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009).

B) Conclusion

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

PD 616/11 Rev.1 (F)

Building Capacity to Participate in Emerging REDD+ Opportunities - A Pilot Action Learning Initiative in the Adelbert Mountains, Madang Province of PNG

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project aimed at building the capacities of local stakeholders in the Adelbert Mountains, Madang Province of PNG in capturing emerging REDD+ opportunities and considered the modifications of the revised proposal. The Panel noted that many attempts have been made to address the recommendations of the Forty-third Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that all recommendations were not sufficiently addressed in the revised proposal and that it is still insufficiently clear what the proposal wants to achieve. The proposal should be further improved before recommending it to the Committee for final appraisal.

The Panel noted that the proposal mixed many things and that the strategy of the project to participate in REDD+ was not clear enough, given the mainstream of the project work appears to be more focused on the promotion of subsistence farming of cocoa. The Panel advises to center the proposal around sustainable forest management. The Panel further noted a number of weaknesses in the revised proposal. These include: unclear problem analysis due to lack of a clearly identified key problem to be addressed by the project and associated causes and sub-causes; weak stakeholder analysis as regards the full and effective participation of local communities in project implementation; lack of justification for the inclusion of promoting fair-trade certified cocoa as well as REDD+ as a major project component; weak presentation of Outputs and Activities; limited sustainability of the project due to a substantial amount of the ITTO budget allocated for the project personnel; and unclear relationship between PNG FA and TNC regarding the role of the Executing Agency.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Further improve the problem analysis by clearly identifying a key problem to be addressed by the project and fully describing underlying causes of such a key problem. For instance, the key problem would be related to lack of economic benefits for local forest owners from forest conservation. A gap analysis of the achievements of PD 324/04 Rev.3 (F) could be presented in a concise way in Section 1.1 (Origin) or another section including an Annex without mixing it with the problem analysis;
2. Further improve the stakeholder analysis to ensure the full and effective participation of local communities. Describe in detail the specific problems, needs, and interests of local communities as well as their involvement in the project;
3. Review the inclusion of Output 3 (Benefits from the premium prices obtained from exporting Fair-trade certified cocoa in connection with ITTO's mandates and consider deleting this activity for ITTO support if it is not fully justified);
4. Justify the inclusion of REDD+ as a pilot learning initiative in the Adelbert Mountain, Madang Province, PNG;
5. Refine the project title in line with the specific objective of the project in support of sustainable forest management;
6. Refine the Outputs and Activities according to the refined problem analysis;
7. Rework the ITTO budget by scaling down the provision allocated for the project's personnel;
8. Further improve the sustainability of the project by specifying institutional arrangements to ensure the further development of the activities initiated by the project;
9. Clarify the Executing Agency between the PNG FA and TNC with the overall responsibility for the implementation of the project by describing its constituency, its relationship with the target group and the kinds of expertise it can provide; and

10. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project aimed at promoting the establishment of Spatial Forest Resources Information System in connection with the system of SIAPHUT which was developed by the Ministry of Forestry in 2005 and considered the modifications made in the revised proposal. The Panel noted that most of the specific recommendations of the Forty-third Expert Panel were addressed in the revised proposal. However, the Panel noted that the proposal needed for further improvements before it can commend the proposal to the Committee for final appraisal. These include: more information on the new special forest resources information system (SAP-FRIS) in relation with the system of SIAPHUT ; further strengthening of the involvement of local communities and the private sector in project implementation ; refinement of the specific objective and outputs ; improvement of the impact and outcome indicators in a more measurable way ; specification of project activities to lead to the achievement of Output 1; more information on the training courses proposed under Activity 2.1 ; and scaling down of the ITTO budget allocated to Project Personnel and Duty Travel to ensure the sustainability of the project after its completion.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Provide more background information on the special forest resources information system (SAP-FRIS) in relation with the system of SIAPHUT which was developed by the Ministry of Forestry in 2005;
2. Further improve the stakeholder analysis by strengthening the involvement of local communities and the private sector; they will be a main user of the information produced by the project;
3. Further improve the logical framework matrix by refining the specific objectives and outputs resulting from the project;
4. Further improve the impact indicators and outcomes indicators with more concrete ones to measure the achievements of the objectives and outputs;
5. Specify project activities necessary to achieve Output 1 (Spatial data and information of forest resources is provided);
6. Provide more information on the proposed training courses on forest resources information system to validate the proposed work of Project Activity 2.1;
7. Rework the ITTO budget by scaling down the provision allocated for Project Personnel and Duty Travel while increasing the Executing Agency's contributions to ensure sustainability of the project after its completion; and
8. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted the efforts made by the proponent in addressing the comments and recommendations of the Expert Panel made by its Forty-third meeting. For a Sahelian country like Togo, the Panel recognized the importance of this project dealing with the production and availability of improved teak clones, through the development of improved plant material, to be used for the reforestation and rehabilitation activities in Togo.

However, the Panel also noted that the revised version of the project proposal could be further enhanced in some sections and sub-sections, and therefore suggested the specific recommendations mentioned here below for that purpose. It further noted that the link between Output 3 and its indicators dealing with 2 PhD theses and 5 Master's degree was questionable, as well as the way all assumptions are formulated in the logical framework matrix. Furthermore, the Panel noted that the financial sustainability and economic sustainability were not elaborated in relation to some primary stakeholders (plantation owners, logging business and timber wholesalers and retailers), in addition to the technical sustainability and institutional sustainability already addressed in the revised version of the project proposal. Finally, the Panel encouraged the executing agency and collaborating agency to promote the exchange of information, findings and experiences with neighbouring countries where research on teak genetic improvement had been carried out (mainly Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana), through study trips, regional workshop and other relevant activities.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Further improve the logical framework matrix by formulating assumptions in an operative way showing what kind of potential obstacles could be hindering the smooth implementation of the project, while ensuring that indicators are specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bound (SMART);
2. Improve furthermore the sustainability aspects regarding the economic sustainability and financial sustainability correlated to some primary stakeholders (plantation owners, logging business and timber wholesalers and retailers), and in accordance with the guidance provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
3. Further explain in sub-section 4.3.2 how the project results will be internalized in national forest policies, through appropriate systems of mainstreaming project learning;
4. Revise the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Further adequately scale down the budget items 10 and 20, in order to take into account the sustainability aspects after project completion, and also to make provision for the exchange of information, findings and experience on teak improvement with neighbouring countries,
 - b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of 8% of the total ITTO project costs (on the sum budget items 10 to 82); and
5. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 44th 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.

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that the revised proposal was well formulated and had addressed almost all of the comments and recommendations made by the Forty-third Expert Panel. However, it also observed that the project could be further enhanced by providing a detailed description of the components and/or elements of the forest management plans to be developed. It should also clearly state how the mainstreaming of the project's outcomes into the national forestry policies will be achieved.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Describe in detail the components of the forest management plans to be developed and implemented in Guatemala by the project;
2. Clearly state how the mainstreaming of the project's outcomes into the national forestry policies will be achieved;
3. Include better and larger scale maps that highlight the regions where the project will implement its activities in Guatemala;
4. Recalculate ITTO's Programme Support Costs so as to conform to the standard of 8% of total ITTO project costs; and
5. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 the incorporation of amendments.

PD 635/12 Rev.1 (F)

Development of Guidelines for Buffer Zone Management for Pulong Tau National Park and Involvement of Local Communities in Management, Sarawak, Malaysia

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project aimed at promoting the sustainable management of buffer zone for the Pulong Tau National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia and considered the modifications of the revised proposal. The Panel noted that most of the specific recommendations of the Forty-third Expert Panel were addressed in the revised proposal. However, the Panel noted that the proposal needed for further improvements before it can be commended to the Committee for final appraisal. These include : refinement of the project title reflecting the main focus of the project work ; further strengthening of the engagement of indigenous people – Kelabit & Lun Bawang and Penan – in the implementation of the project ; a clearer and more comprehensive problem analysis ; reduction of the ITTO budget allocated for the project personnel to ensure the sustainability of the project ; further improvement of the sustainability of the project by fully describing local capacities after project completion ; and support of curricula vitae of project personnel provided by the Executing Agency to ensure the efficient and effective implementation of the project.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Refine the project title by excluding 'development of guidelines' for buffer zone management for the Pulong Tau National Park as the project work will focus on integrated buffer zone management through active involvement of indigenous people;
2. Further improve the engagement of indigenous people to ensure their full and effective participation in the project implementation. In this regard, Table 1 (Stakeholders analysis) should be improved by further elaborating the problems, needs and interests of indigenous people as well as their involvement in the project implementation;
3. Further improve the problem analysis apart from the problem tree by clearly identifying one key problem and associated causes and sub-causes. Fully describe the underlying causes of the key problem related to the management of the buffer zone for the Pulong Tau National Park;
4. Revise the ITTO budget by scaling down the project personnel while increasing contributions of the Executing Agency. In particular, the monthly honorarium for the project leader should be reduced. Justify budget item 14 (Employee's contribution to EPF 13%);
5. Further improve the sustainability of the project by describing ways in which local personnel and indigenous people will be equipped to assume responsibilities after the project's completion;
6. Provide CV of project personnel provided by the Executing Agency; and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text 8.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel reiterated the importance of this small project in implementing a low-impact community forest management model adapted to climate change in two communities in the Sierra Madre- Selva Zoque Corridor in the State of Chiapas, Mexico, with a view towards improving the living standards of for the forest dependent communities. However, the Panel noted that despite some efforts from the proponent, major recommendations from the 43rd Panel's had not been adequately addressed.

As such, the proposal continued to be ambiguous and confusing not clearly explaining the rationale and what is going to be achieved through the project. How it is going to be achieved is also still vague as the section on Implementation approaches is not to the point. In addition, the problem analysis was not properly strengthened, and just expanded from "poor forest management" to "no management". Moreover, no proper reference has been made to the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests, even though these are highly applicable to the current situation in the area of influence of the proposal. Last but not least, the Panel acknowledged efforts made by the proponent regarding the budget and encourages more to avoid a gap-filling budget support action considering the still rather high amount of budget personnel requested from ITTO.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Build on the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests for the implementation of the project; it is not merely about mentioning the Guidelines but rather about using them to strengthen the project;
2. Provide a detailed description of the MCACC model, its characteristics and contents, and justify the selection of this model among others; try no to get too complex by introducing other new concepts such as REBISE;
3. Further improve the information on the social and cultural aspects related to the forests in the region with a view to clarify what is the state of forests management at the moment; Further elaborate on the relevance of the project to the regional policies and strategies of the State of Chiapas by better explaining the involvement of the local government;
4. Focus on the real problem and its causes in the problem analysis and tree, rather than "no forest management". Further improve the problem analysis and problem tree. What and why does the project aim at? Provide for better-formulated development and specific objectives with measurable indicators, rather than the current revised but still very broad ones. Develop concrete outputs, as the current ones still appear more to be activities. Further include SMART qualitative and quantitative indicators and means of verification, including those related to the impacts and outcomes of the project, to clearly visualize the before and after situations. Most activities appear unrelated to the problem tree, outputs and budget. Correlate and integrate these accordingly;
5. Correct numerical inconsistencies in the proposal's budgetary tables. Go further in the effort of providing a more equitable balance between the ITTO and counterpart contributions towards the overall budget, particularly as regards project personnel and international travel;
6. Information provided under Implementation approaches and methods is convoluted and not to the point. The proposal must describe the approaches and methods to be used to address the key problem in order to bring about the intended changes and to meet the expectations of stakeholders. Stakeholder consultation and participation approaches should be included. The process and methods for implementing and operationalizing the chosen approaches should be outlined and illustrated, showing key milestones.
7. Describe how the project's activities will be sustained in the long term (after project completion) and what institutions will be responsible for it and how the resources needed will be secured; the paragraph on sustainability remains very vague and general despite its modification;

8. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project aimed at promoting sustainable management of Forest Management Unit in Rinjani Barat of West Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia and considered the modifications of the revised proposal. The Panel noted that an attempt had been made to address the recommendations of the Forty-third Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that not all recommendations were sufficiently addressed in the revised proposal and that the proposal should be further improved before recommending it to the Committee for final appraisal. The Panel felt that the strategy of the project was still more or less based on a top-down approach and further noted a number of weaknesses in the revised proposal. These include: elaboration of the causes of the key problem with the proposed project activities; unsound presentation of the development objective ; inconsistent presentation of the specific objective; weak presentation of some of the project activities in the work plan ; lack of frequent consultation meetings during the project duration ; substantial amount of the ITTO budget allocated for the project personnel and sub-contractor ; and weak presentation of the sustainability without elaborating the capacities of institutions to be in place at project completion. Furthermore, the Panel suggested that a representative(s) from local communities in west and north Lombok Districts should be included in the PSC membership.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Further improve the problem analysis by clearly elaborating its connection to the proposed project strategy without mixing with the proposed project activities. Refine the cause identified as 'Lack of local communities support' as 'support' is too general and wide. For instance, the presentation of the cause would be better with 'lack of capacities of local communities';
2. Refine the development objective in a positive way and Output 3 based on refined problem analysis and tree;
3. Make a consistent presentation of the specific objective between the local framework matrix and Section 2.2.2;
4. Refine Activity 1.2 (To implement Forest Management Plan) as it might be difficult to implement given the limited project duration;
5. Improve the work plan by allowing the organization of more frequent coordination meetings under Activity 1.1. Activity 1.3.2 (Conduct training on database applications) should be conducted after developing the database. Implementation of Activity 1.3.3 (Development of Rinjani Barat PFMU website) should have a more sufficient time;
6. Rework the ITTO budget by scaling down the provision allocated for the project personnel and sub-contractor while increasing the counterpart's contribution. Include the national management cost in Table 3.3 (Consolidated budget by component) as specified in Table 3.5;
7. Further improve the sustainability of the project by specifying any institutional arrangement to ensure the continuation of the activities initiated by the project;
8. Include a representative(s) from the local communities in west and north Lombok Districts in PSC members in line with the Stakeholder Analysis; and
9. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 646/12 Rev.1 (F)

Initiating the Conservation of Cempaka Tree Species [*Elmerrillia ovalis* (Miq.) Dandy] Through Plantation Development with Local Community Participation in Northern Sulawesi, Indonesia

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that an attempt had been made to address all specific recommendations made by Forty-third Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that many of the recommendations had not been addressed adequately and the reformulated proposal remained unclear in many aspects, including inconsistent indication of the intended areas for Cempaka plantation and demonstration. The Panel was of the view that revised stakeholder and problem analysis were still incomplete and weak. More significantly, the Panel noted that there was a fundamental weakness in the revised Logical Framework Matrix, making assessment difficult. These include: the development and specific objectives as well as outputs were vague; the impact indicators were poorly identified without showing longer-term effects; inconsistency of activities otherwise weakly justified; and the key assumptions for key project elements were not realistic enough to ensure the success of the project. The Panel also felt that the question of how local communities would be engaged in the plantation and management of Cempaka tree species had not been clearly addressed in the revised proposal. The Panel reiterated the importance of the project's strategy in promoting community-based plantation development in North Sulawesi, Indonesia as a follow-up to the recommendations of a series of consultation meetings on Cempaka plantation development.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Further improve the stakeholder analysis by refining the problems, needs and interests of local communities as well as their involvement in project implementation. Further describe how the project will obtain the full and effective participation of local communities in Cempaka plantation and demonstration to ensure the sustainability of the project;
2. Further improve the problem analysis by fully describing sub-causes relating to the lack of participation of local communities; Make a consistent presentation of the intended areas for Cempaka plantation and demonstration;
3. Improve the logical framework matrix by refining the development and specific objectives with definite and stronger terms. The impact indicators should be reformulated to reflect longer-terms effects of the project after its completion while the outcome indicators should be reformulated, taking into account the statement of the expected outcome at project completion (Section 1.4). Improve the key assumptions by identifying key potential obstacles in connection with the assumption and risk assessment (Section 3.5.1);
4. Improve the statements of Outputs by clearly outlining the finished or completed results in qualitative and quantitative terms;
5. Justify the engagement of an international consultant with detailed terms of reference;
6. Substantially reduce the ITTO budget allocated under Sub-contracts and provide justification for each of Budget Items 21-24 based on the reduced budget; and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 654/12 (F)

Forest Communities, Production and Governance in Antioquia, Colombia – an Exercise in the Corregimiento of Puerto Lopez, Municipality of El Bagre, as a Model for the Magdalena River Forest Reserve

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted the importance of this project for contributing towards the improvement of the natural environment and the quality of life of the communities in the Municipality of El Bagre via the establishment of agroforestry plantations and the provision of training on the maintenance of these plantations, as well as a compilation and systematization of traditional uses and knowledge of biodiversity. It further noted that the proposal is the follow-up of a currently ongoing ITTO project PD 438/06 Rev.2 (F) in the same region being implemented by CORANTIOQUIA. However, it observed that many aspects of the proposal were vague or missing. A significant amount of background information was lacking, particularly as regards the main outcomes of PD 438/06 Rev.2 (F) that result in the formulation of this proposal, and moreover why the problems to be tackled by this proposal, were not addressed in the ongoing project in the first place. In addition, the project's origin and the social and environmental aspects of the region are too broad and un-conclusive. It is also not clear why the current area was targeted among so many others.

As regards the proposal's core technical aspects, such as those related to the basic agroforestry designs and silvicultural treatments to be applied during the implementation of the project, these are completely absent. The expected outcomes did not relate to any of the activities at all, and it was not clear how the activities would achieve the proposed outputs. The logical framework's outputs appeared more to be inputs, and lacked qualitative and quantitative smart indicators, and presented several numerical discrepancies as regards beneficiary families and hectares converted to agroforestry. In addition, in case the hectare figures were correct, the project would be economically unfeasible, as the average investment per hectare would be around US\$ 10,000 and even higher per family. It is also not clear if the stakeholders participated in the development of the key problem and project objectives and if their inputs were taken into account in a participatory manner in the preparation of the proposal. Last but not least, sustainability of the project's activities after project completion is unclear.

Given the above observations and recommendations and the importance of the intent of this project, the Panel was of the view that a completely new proposal should be formulated in a participatory manner among all stakeholders and submitted to ITTO according to the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation 2009 (GI Series 13), and in particular to its Appendix A. In addition, apart from building upon existing ITTO projects in the country, consider applying the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests, and possibly the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for Biodiversity conservation in Production Forests, in such a project.

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.

PD 657/12 (F)

**Pilot Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of
Threatened Broadleaved Forest Species with a View to Biodiversity
Conservation**

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project in enhancing the conservation of IUCN-listed and CITES Annex II threatened species of the Honduran biodiversity. However, several of the project's components are either very weak, or lack focus or are sometimes unrelated or unexplained. Also, no explanation is given as to why the Mosquitia Region, where most of the Honduran tropical forests and biodiversity are found, is not included in this proposal.

Moreover, the proposal did not contain a real problem analysis, as it is not a decrease in biodiversity in Honduras that is the fundamental problem, but what is causing the decrease in the first place. The four expected outcomes are also totally unrelated and could really be the central topics of totally four different projects. The logical framework matrix was very superficial and did not contain any qualitative and quantitative smart indicators. The institutional set up and how different partners would interact was not described, the stakeholder analysis was very weak, and no information was provided on the risks involved.

As such, the Panel considered that this proposal had been formulated utilizing an erroneous approach. In addition, the proposal did not exactly follow the format in the ITTO manual, and many of its components were either weak or missing. Moreover, as regards the budget, it was not clear what was to be covered by ITTO and what was to be financed with counterpart funds, as detailed budget tables by component and by source had not been included in the proposal.

Given the above observations and recommendations and the importance of the intent of this project, the Panel was of the view that a completely new proposal should be formulated and submitted to ITTO according to the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation 2009 (GI Series 13), and in particular to its Appendix A. In addition, consider applying the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Production Forests in such a project.

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.

PD 659/12 (F)

Strengthening Forest Management as a Basis for the Reactivation of the Forest Sector in Honduras Through Sustainable Development in 5 Pilot Units of Atlantida and Mosquitia (Broadleaved Forest) and Francisco Morazan, Olancho and Yoro (Coniferous Forest) Regions

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project aimed at strengthening the capacities and skills of Honduras' public and private forestry sectors to assist them in the sustainable management of their forests with a view towards its overall reactivation. However, several of the project's components are either ambiguous, or lack focus, or are unrelated or quite convoluted. In addition, the proposal's outcomes are basically a list of products ranging from documents to programs rather than the expected achievements per say. The proposal's outputs appear to be products and, as such, the logical framework does not follow the format as presented in the ITTO project formulation manual. Moreover, the stakeholder analysis is too general and the implementation approach is very weak. In addition, it is very unclear how a small amount of funds in several credit lines managed by the project will assist in revamping the forest sector in Honduras. Moreover, the issue of sustainability of the project's activities and outcomes, and how these will be maintained over time, has not been addressed at all, nor has the mainstreaming of its results been dealt with.

In this light, the Panel considered this to be too ambitious and not realistic, and considered it more appropriate for the proposing agency to focus on a core but very specific problem hampering the forestry sector in Honduras, for which an appropriate solution can be found in the short term and positively impact on the reactivation of the forestry sector there.

As such, the Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proponent should first clearly identify Honduras' specific and/or inherent forest management weaknesses based on an in-house evaluation of the indicators under the first criterion of ITTO's C&I: Enabling Conditions for Sustainable Forest Management, and then formulate a completely new project proposal based on the aforementioned findings that strictly adheres to the format specified in the Third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not comment the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, as a complete reformulation is necessary.

PD 663/12 (F)

Zoning and Sustainable Management of the Buffer Zone of Minkebe National Park to Contribute to the Transboundary Conservation of the TRIDOM Area (Gabon)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of zoning and sustainably managing the buffer zone of Minkebe National Park in relation to the transboundary conservation corridors to be established between Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon. However, the Panel noted that the project proposal was more focused on Gabon and the transboundary aspects were not adequately developed, as required for an ITTO transboundary project.

The Panel also noted that useful information and data were provided in the project proposal but there were weaknesses in the following project sections and sub-sections, including in the most critical ones which could hinder the project implementation: maps in scale not allowing to read or interpret them; stakeholder analysis missing groups to be in charge of transboundary aspects of the project; problem analysis and problem tree not appropriately correlated to the requirements of a transboundary project; logical framework matrix with non-appropriate impacts indicators for the development objective and also with weak means of verification; development objective not formulated in a way to reflect the change and specific objective not linked to the key problem and not reflecting impacts; implementation strategy not appropriately elaborated in relation to the transboundary requirements; master budget not following the ITTO format in order to facilitate the understanding of budgets by components. The Panel further noted that the letters of support from the Governments of Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville and Gabon were missing, as a proof of their commitment to ensure the implementation of transboundary aspects of the project.

It was the view of the Panel that the project proposal should be sent back to the proponent for a complete reformulation of the project proposal in compliance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation, while ensuring the inclusion of transboundary aspects.

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 for assessment of the reformulated version of the project proposal if it is submitted.

PD 664/12 (F)

Regional Project to Promote Reduced Impact Logging in Peru

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of this project aimed at establishing a training centre to teach sustainable forest management (SFM) among the logging companies and communities managing concessions, educational and government institutions, and NGO's related to forestry of Peru through the implementation of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) practices incorporating wildlife conservation considerations. The Panel further observed that the submitting agency had previously implemented similar ITTO projects in Brazil and Guyana with excellent results. As such, the proposal is highly relevant to ITTO objectives. However, while the proposal is well written, the timeframe allocated to it is unclear, as activities span for two years but the budget extends itself for 5 years.

The proposal also refers to an ITTO Thematic Programme even though it is not being submitted to it and should be removed to avoid confusion. Larger scale maps of the project's area of influence should also be provided. In the problem analysis the cause is rather shallow and should be strengthened and the problem tree does not follow the format in the ITTO manual. In addition, the specific objectives in the logical framework are not clear; the indicators are weak and should to be enhanced so as to be qualitatively and quantitatively smart; and outputs do not exactly match the problems. The budget tables also do not follow the format specified in the ITTO manuals. Implementation arrangements could also be more explicit. Last but not least, the long-term sustainability and mainstreaming the learning are weak and should be strengthened.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Either submit a phased 5-year project or submit a self-standing 2-year project, but follow the format precisely as described in the ITTO Project Formulation Manual. Delete any reference to ITTO Thematic Programs, as it is not required;
2. Provide a better and larger scale map that highlights the areas where the project will implement its activities in Peru;
3. Further improve the problem analysis and problem tree so as to clearly describe the current problems and the proposed solutions. Provide for concise specific objectives with strong indicators, rather than the current very broad ones;
4. Develop concrete outputs that match the problems to be addressed. Further include SMART qualitative and quantitative indicators and means of verification, including those related to the impacts and outcomes of the project;
5. Consider incorporating the different ITTO guidelines and criteria and indicators on sustainable forest management as part of the curriculum of the training courses to be organized;
6. Describe how the project's activities will be sustained in the long term (after project completion) and what institutions will be responsible for it and how the resources needed will be secured;
7. Re-edit the overall project budget to conform to the ITTO format and include detailed budgets by components and sources. Adjust the costs for ITTO monitoring and review to US\$10,000 per year, include US\$10,000 for mid-term/ex-post evaluation, and recalculate ITTO's Program Support Costs so as to conform to the standard of 8% of total ITTO project costs; and
8. Include an Annex which shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 665/12 (F)

Implementation of a Fire Prevention and Control Plan for the Central Amazon Region in Peru

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that this proposal for Peru aimed to develop a strategic plan to prevent and control forest fires, mitigate climate change and help raise living standards in the Pasco Region, by reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and reducing the associated emissions. The Panel noted that the proposal was well written, was highly relevant to ITTO's objectives and had further invoked the application of ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests. However, the Panel further observed that the proposal did not fully follow the format described in the ITTO Manual on Project Formulation, such as the section on social, environmental and economic aspects and on expected outcomes. The map of the area could be somewhat improved, as well as the stakeholder analysis. The problem analysis was also somewhat weak and the key problem not convincing enough. Moreover, the development objective appeared to be more an output and needs to be redefined, together with the specific objective. The organizational chart should also be improved, to clearly reflect who the executing agency will be. Last but not least, the monitoring system is not described and detailed budgets by component and source are missing.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Re-edit the project proposal so as to conform to the format established in the ITTO manual;
2. Include a larger scale map of the region;
3. Enhance the sections related to social, environmental and economic aspects; expected outcomes; stakeholder analysis; and problem analysis. Provide for a more convincing key problem and redefine the development objective;
4. Include a proper organizational chart that clearly reflects the roles of the executing agency and collaborating agencies;
5. Provide greater details on the fire monitoring system and protocols to be put in place;
6. Re-edit the overall project budget to conform to the modifications and also to conform to the ITTO format. Include detailed budgets by components and sources. Adjust the costs for ITTO monitoring and review to US\$10,000 per year, include US\$10,000 for mid-term/ex-post evaluation, and recalculate ITTO's Programme Support Costs so as to conform to the standard of 8% of total ITTO project costs; and
7. Include an Annex which shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 666/12 (F)

Management Model for the Protection and Sustainable Management and Harvesting of Forest Concession Areas in the Provinces of Tambopata and Manu, Madre De Dios, Peru

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of this project aimed at contributing towards the protection against encroachment of the buffer zones surrounding the Los Amigos Conservation Concession managed by ACCA. These buffer zones mainly consist of other forest, ecotourism, conservation and Brazil-nut concessions belonging to third parties whose forests are being seriously degraded as a result from encroachments, illegal mining, logging and migratory agriculture, due mainly to the weak organizational structure of these concessionaires. To this end, the grassroots organizational capacity of the Association of Timber and Non-Timber Forest Concessionaires of Manu and Tambopata (ACOMAT) will be strengthened, promoting the active participation of its members to implement a joint monitoring and control system to increase the cost-effectiveness of their procedures. In addition, to ensure the sustainability of the management system, a REDD proposal will be developed and funding will be sought through the REDD mechanism.

The Panel further noted, however, that project proposal contained several weaknesses, particularly as regards sustainability of the project's outcomes in the long term. It observed that most of the costs related to the infrastructure and personnel required for the physical monitoring of these supposedly economically-viable concessions would be borne by ITTO for a period of two years and then hopefully be covered by only the potential income provided by a REDD project to be implemented in the buffer zone areas of the Los Amigos Conservation Concession. No mention is made as regards the potential income obtained from ecotourism and the production of timber and non-timber forest products of the ACOMAT concessions and its partial use to cover a joint monitoring and control system.

In addition, the REDD component and its origin has not been fully developed in the proposal and the reason that it would be the solution to the current problems of the ACOMAT concessions is also not mentioned. The proposal's expected outcomes also need to be further elaborated, the problem analysis strengthened and a problem tree included. As regards the budget, there is no clear justification of why three project directors/coordinators are needed.

In this light, the Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proponent should first clearly identify the specific and/or inherent management weaknesses of the ACOMAT concessions based on an in-house evaluation utilizing ITTO's Criteria & Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, and then formulate a completely new project proposal based on the aforementioned findings that strictly adheres to the format specified in the Third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation and includes all its components.

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.

PD 667/12 (F)

Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest Management by Rural Communities in Peru

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the proposal in developing the sustainable forest management (SFM) capacities of rural communities in the north coastal region belonging to the Departments of Lambayeque, Piura and Tumbes, thus contributing to sustainable forest development in this important area of Peru that is home to 2,060,000 hectares of natural forests (64.38% of total forest area in the northern region of Peru), where 117,365 people depend on these forest resources for their livelihood. As such, the proposal is highly relevant to the ITTO objectives and Action Plan.

However, the panel struggled to fully understand how and what exactly the proponents were aiming to achieve. The social and economic aspects were only described superficially in the proposal. Links with local governments were missing. The problem analysis was also very weak and the key problem was too basic, with none of the underlying causes, of which some were very vague, clearly matching it. The logical framework further focuses mainly on capacity building, but it is not clear on what the training workshops will consist of. In addition, the indicators, while providing many figures, have no baseline to compare, and moreover do not match the outputs, which could be confused for activities. In addition, these indicators are somewhat ambitious for the allocated timeframe and budget, and the implementation approach does not clearly mention how each of the quantitative indicators will be achieved.

Given the above observations and recommendations and the importance of the intent of this project, the Panel was of the view that a completely new proposal should be formulated in a participatory manner among all stakeholders and submitted to ITTO according to the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation 2009 (GI Series 13), and in particular to its Appendix A. In addition, consider applying the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests, and possibly the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for Biodiversity conservation in Production Forests, in such a project.

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.

PD 668/12 (F)

Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity in the Tacaná Volcano and Its Range of Influence in Mexico and Guatemala

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the proposal in improving the living standards for 28,000 people in both countries based on the conservation and sustainable use of local natural resources, via a participatory process for natural resource and biodiversity management, conservation and use in the Tacaná Volcano and its range of influence in Guatemala and Mexico. The Panel observed that the proposal begins with an initial two-year phase to establish the foundations of joint work with the community, men and women, with pilot activities including forest management, diversification of economic opportunities, upgrade of the legal framework of Protected Areas and enhancement of collaboration between both countries.

The Panel further noted that 80% of the costs are covered by ITTO while the collaborating agencies profiles are missing, the maps of the project's area of influence are rather small and unclear, and that both the Mexican and Guatemalan environmental and forestry authorities are not directly involved in the implementation of the project, nor in determining the necessary legal frameworks for integrated management as contained in output 3. In addition, even though this proposal is transboundary in its overall context, none of the two countries' ministries of foreign relations appear to be aware of it and even less expressed their support for at least the activities which are binational in nature. Evidence of support should be provided from relevant stakeholders and the role and financial involvement of the collaborating agencies strengthened.

The proposal mentions that two more phases are to follow in the future, but the proposal does not contain any description of even what the expected outcomes and impact of such a three-phased project would be. The stakeholder analysis also needs revising, as there is no mention of the tertiary stakeholders. As regards the logical framework, the second output is very vague, and while it focused on community-based pilot projects, no clear description of these were available in the proposal. Besides, it is not clear that the proposal was formulated in a participatory manner with the beneficiary communities of the project's area of influence. Furthermore, it was not clear what type of training the locals received prior to the formulation of this proposal, but mentions that the mainstreaming of the technical and legal regulations in the region fully depends on these previously trainer facilitated events. The proposal also lacks any information as regards land tenure, and it is not clear if the communities and/or the individual families possess clear land titles on either side of the border or are considered squatters or otherwise. Current land use is also not described.

Likewise, the logical framework lacks serious qualitative and quantitative SMART indicators, both at the objectives and outputs' level. Baseline information is also critically lacking. The organizational chart should also be improved, to clearly reflect the roles the executing agency and collaborating agencies will play and the interaction between these and the stakeholders. Besides, it is not clear how the communities and their local governments will be involved in the activities of the project. Apart from participating in the roundtables, not much more is thought of them, and are not included in the project's steering committee, while the Mexican and Guatemalan environmental and forestry authorities, that do not provide any direct inputs nor any counterpart funding, will run the implementation of the project. As such, it seems that the project is too much structured with a top-down approach in mind and should be altered.

Last but not least, the budget tables and components do not follow the ITTO format and in addition contain some extremely unclear highly-expensive sub-components such as "inputs to support economic initiatives, including pesticides...", "incentives per conserved area... restored area", and "depreciation of agricultural vehicles...", among others. It was also observed that all of the governmental institutions with a stake in the execution of the project, such as INAB, CONAFOR, CONAP, CONANP and SEMARNAT, were not directly involved nor contributing to the proposal with additional counterpart funding.

In this light, the Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the proposal should be revised taking into account each of the remarks made in the overall assessment above. An Annex that shows the overall assessment, remarks and recommendations of the 44th Expert Panel should be added with the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

B) Conclusion

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

PD 669/12 (F)

Reducing Forest Degradation and Emissions Through Integrated Sustainable Management and Rehabilitation of Coastal Mangrove Areas in Malaysia

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project to promote the integrated sustainable management of mangrove areas in Malaysia through an integrated approach involving federal and state governments, research institutes, NGOs, and local communities. The Panel further welcomed the initiative of Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia to work closely with Sabah Forestry Department and Forest Department Sarawak for the conservation and management of mangrove.

However, the Panel noted that many of the crucial sections of the proposal were weak, and vague with only general information, making assessment difficult. In particular, the Panel was of the view that the stakeholder analysis, problem analysis and logical framework matrix, which are the most critical part of the project, were very poor and incomplete:

- The stakeholder analysis did not adequately elaborate the problems, needs and interests as well as involvement in project implementation for each stakeholder although the formulation of the proposal was based on a multi-stakeholder consultation process. The identification of local communities as a tertiary stakeholder did not provide confidence that they would collaborate in undertaking relevant activities. The Panel felt that the issue of how local communities would be engaged in the plantation and management of mangrove had not been clearly addressed.
- The problem analysis and problem tree did not prove a clear assessment of underlying causes of the key problem to be addressed by the project relating to depletion and degradation of mangroves and coastal areas. The Panel questioned whether lack of understanding on opportunity costs of carbon and environment services would be a cause and felt that it was confused with an opportunity to be generated in the future. Lack of capacity for major stakeholders was not detailed. The Panel felt that the formulation of this proposal should have benefited from the ITTO Mangrove Work Plan (2002-2006) which provides a framework for overall mangrove management and conservation plans as well as restoration and rehabilitation of degraded mangrove forests. The Panel also questioned whether an analysis of existing action plans for integrated coastal areas management in the country, which provides guidance with an updated concept of integrated coastal areas management, was carried out for the formulation of the proposal. Furthermore, the Panel pointed out that the project proponent could build on a clear and comprehensive problem analysis from an existing mangrove project in Sabah.
- In the logical framework matrix, the Panel felt that the formulation of the development and specific objectives was wrong as they were presented as a kind of project activities. The two specific objectives could be merged into one and the formulation of outputs was not linked with the problem analysis. The impact indicators and outcome indicators were poorly identified without providing relevant quality and quantity targets. Key assumptions for many of the project components were not provided. Regarding the project activities for mangrove plantations, the Panel pointed out that no information on improved techniques was provided.

Regarding the ITTO budget, the Panel observed that a substantial amount of the budget was allocated for the project team and sub-contract without any justification. The Panel questioned about a real unit cost in rehabilitating of degraded mangrove forests, considering that the amount of more than US\$1.5 million was allocated for sub-contract nursery, site preparation, and engineered wave breaker & field inventory with the involvement of conventional and innovative planting on only 15 hectares at 3 sites. In this regard, the Panel felt that such a high provision for the sub-contract should be justified with more background information.

Overall, the Panel acknowledged the importance of promoting integrated sustainable management of mangrove areas in Malaysia. However, due to the above fundamental weaknesses of the proposal, the Panel was not in a position to commend the revised proposal for further appraisal. It was the view of the Panel that the project proposal should be sent back to the proponent so as to completely reformulate a new proposal in accordance with the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009).

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.

PD 673/12 (F)

Strengthening the Capacity in Forest Law Enforcement and Governance of the Permanent Forest Estates in Kratie and Mondulkiri Provinces of Cambodia

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project proposal to continuously strengthen the capacity of the Cambodia Forestry Administration and local governments in forest law enforcement and government as a follow-up to PD 493/07 Rev.1 (F) "Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) in Cambodia" which completed its activities in early 2012. The Panel considered that this proposal had been well formulated with a good stakeholder analysis and a clear key problem in accordance with the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009). However, the Panel considered that the proposal should further improve some sections of the proposal. These include: improvement in the identification of causes of the key problem ; refinement of the impact and outcome indicators in the logical framework matrix ; and refinement of Output 2. Furthermore, the Panel sought clarification on the relevance and timing of conducting an ex-post evaluation of PD 493/07 Rev.1 (F). In light of the importance of supporting the political will of the Royal Government of Cambodia to promote FLEG and maintaining a good momentum of the project team, the Panel suggested the immediate implementation of the project through conduct of an ex-ante evaluation.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Improve the problem analysis and problem tree by refining the second cause of the key problem relating to "lack of support by local communities" as this is related to an effect of the key problem. For instance, lack of awareness and incentives for local communities in supporting FLEG. In the problem tree, each sub-cause should be presented in a separate box following the standard presentation of a problem tree in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009);
2. Improve the logical framework matrix by refining the impact indicators and outcome indicators as well as the key assumptions. The impact indicators should be identified to reflect longer-term effects of the project as '20 % reduction of illegal activities' was a low impact of the project. The presentation of 'maintaining 60% of land area' and 'within last 5 years' should be reviewed as it is unclear. The current outcome indicators should be reallocated into relevant outputs and new indicators should be identified in relation to the expected outcomes at project completion. The key assumptions for the three outputs should be more related to external conditions which might impede progress from the outputs to the specific objective;
3. Redefine Output 2 based on the refined problem analysis as the current statement of Output 2 was related to an effect of the project;
4. Rework the work plan for the entire duration by using a black horizontal bar to indicate the execution period of each activity ;
5. Include the ITTO budget provision allocated for Project Coordinator in the Executing Agency's budget to ensure the sustainability of the project ;
6. In the ITTO yearly budget item 92 (ITTO ex-post evaluation), change it with ITTO ex-ante evaluation so that in the beginning of the project, ex-ante evaluation can be carried out in order to increase synergize the outputs and lessons learned from the implementation of PD 493/07 Rev.1 (F) ; and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 commenced to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

PD 675/12 (F)

Promotion of Reduced-Impact Logging Techniques and Wildlife Management in the Forest Concessions of Gabon

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance and importance for the promotion of reduced impact logging techniques in relation to wildlife management in the forest concessions of Gabon. This project proposal should be considered as a second phase of the completed project PD 392/06 Rev.2 (F) which was ex-post evaluated in 2011. The ex-post evaluation results and findings were presented at the Forty-seventh International Tropical Timber Council in November 2011.

However, the Panel noted that the project proposal contained weaknesses on most of the sections and sub-sections, and particularly on the following ones which could be critical for the project implementation: very weak stakeholder analysis not clearly linked to the problem analysis for most primary stakeholders; problem analysis not adequately elaborated and main causes and sub-causes not properly identified while not being correlated to the problem tree; problem tree not picturing clearly the cause-effect (vertical logic) linking key problem, causes and sub-causes; logical framework matrix without appropriate impact indicators for the development objective and appropriate outcome indicators for the specific objective, while key assumptions were weak; specific objective similarly formulated as Output 1; outputs and related activities formulated without correlation with the problem analysis and problem tree; poor work plan based on inadequate outputs and activities; no master budgets allowing to understand the budget by component; assumptions, risks and sustainability not adequately presented.

The Panel also noted that most lessons learnt, from the ex-post evaluation of the completed project PD 392/06 Rev.2 (F), were not taken into account in the project proposal. It was the view of the Panel that the project proposal should be sent back to the proponent in application of the principle of referring to the results and findings of the previous phase in a following phase project proposal.

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.

PD 679/12 (F)

Restoration of Forest Landscapes and Enhancement of Environmental Services and Socioeconomic Conditions in the Municipality of Papantla, in the Totonaca Area of the State of Veracruz, Mexico

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project in contributing towards participatory and sustainable development of forest and cultural landscapes in the Municipality of Papantla, Veracruz while restoring forest landscapes and enhancing environmental services and socioeconomic conditions. The Panel also noted that it had previously already assessed a very similar proposal, PD 642/12 (F) "Restoring Tropical Forest Landscapes in Northern Veracruz with Agroforestry Systems", and had recommended to the Submitting Agency the formulation of a completely new proposal.

However, this proposal appears very similar and several of the project's components are thus, still very complex, or lack focus or are quite convoluted, and many unrelated or unexplained. The problem analysis and the problem tree are confusing. The logical framework does not provide for any qualitative and quantitative indicators measuring the project's potential achievements. Also, the maps provided are very small and are not very clear in pinpointing the beneficiary communities. Neither are the communities listed anywhere. In addition, there are several numerical discrepancies in the work plan and the budgetary tables, and several activities appear unrelated. Moreover, the nine US\$50,000 vehicles mentioned under capital goods in the budget for a total of US\$450,000 are unjustified and do not merit their inclusion in the proposal. The terms of reference for the project staff and consultants were lacking. Last but not least, detailed budgets by components and sources, as per the ITTO Manual, were also missing and therefore it was unclear what specific costs ITTO would be covering.

As such, the Panel considered that the proposal did not exactly follow the format in the ITTO manual, and many of its components were either weak or missing thus making hard for the Panel to get at what the proponents want to achieve by this project.

Given the above observations and recommendations and the importance of the intent of this project, the Panel was of the view that a completely new proposal should be formulated in a participatory manner among all stakeholders and submitted to ITTO according to the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation 2009 (GI Series 13), and in particular to its Appendix A. In addition, consider applying the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests in such a project.

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.

PD 680/12 (F)

Reforestation Using *Cassia siamea* in Combination with Subsistence Crops (Côte d'Ivoire)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance for women gathered in an association called MALEBI to improve their livelihood through the production of charcoal while contributing to the rehabilitation of the AHUA Gazetted Forest through reforestation activities. This small project proposal is supposed to sustain the outcomes of a pilot Activity funded by ITTO for the production of charcoal using steel carbonization kilns. However, the Panel noted that **ALL** crucial project sections and sub-sections were weak, vague, and/or missing useful information, including the most critical ones: stakeholder analysis not consistent with the key problem; social, economic and environmental aspects were not correlated to the project target area; problem analysis and problem tree not consistent the development objective and specific objective of this small project; implementation strategy not appropriately elaborated in relation to the agroforestry system to be used for the reforestation activities while no information was provided on the criteria of selection of crops to be associated to *Cassia siamea*. Finally, the Panel noted that the budget was not consistent with the work plan, and thus for example, it was not clear why seedlings should be purchased while the production of seedlings was one of the activities under Output 1.

It was the view of the Panel that the project proposal should be sent back to the proponent for a complete reformulation of small project proposal complying with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation.

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.

PD 681/12 (F)

**Restoration of Timber Resources with Indigenous Tree Species in
Cocoa Landscapes for Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation
(Ghana)**

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of trees outside of forests in a country like Ghana with a low forest cover for the supply of timber industrialists. However, the Panel noted that the project scope was too broad since it covers landscape restoration, biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation. The Panel also noted that the project proposal was elaborated in a way giving the impression that the interest is more on cocoa plantation and crops rather than restoration of degraded landscape through the management of an agroforestry system.

The Panel noted that the project proposal contained weaknesses in **ALL** of the sections and sub-sections, including those critical for project implementation: relevance to ITTO objectives and priorities not justified and therefore questionable; map of the entire country in a scale not allowing to read and interpret it; social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects too general and not specifically correlated to the target project sites; no stakeholder analysis provided to introduce and explain the table of stakeholders; lack of consistency between the problem analysis and problem tree while the key problem not adequately identified; problem tree not picturing clearly the cause-effect (vertical logic) relationship of the core problem with causes and sub-causes; logical framework matrix without impact indicators under the development objective; the specific objective is not correlated to the key problem; weak key assumptions; development objective not correlated to the effects of the key problem; no reference to the ITTO guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests in the implementation approaches and methods; project sustainability questionable with 55% of ITTO funds allocated to project personnel and sub-contracts while no funds are clearly budgeted for local communities.

In this light, the Panel was of the view that the project proposal was not well formulated and articulated, and its relevance was even questionable. The Panel, therefore, cannot recommend this proposal for consideration by the Committee.

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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance for the rehabilitation and sustainable management of degraded forest lands by local communities living in the Mono Plain of Togo through a participatory approach for the promotion of community forests. The Panel acknowledged that efforts had been made to address the overall assessment and specific recommendations made by the Forty-third Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted there was still a need to enhance some sections and sub-sections of the revised pre-project proposal.

In this light, the Panel noted the need for a further improvement of the proposal on the following sections and sub-sections: preliminary problem analysis not fully explaining how the future project could contribute to address the key problem while not describing the problems that impede the preparation of a full project; approaches and methods regarding the implementation strategy not appropriately described regarding a clear involvement of stakeholders in the participatory execution of the intended project, while the ownership of the project outcomes were not described; lack of information on the level collaboration between the pre-project implementing agency and the communities of the Mono Plain to be part of the implementation of the future project to be derived from the pre-project execution; names of communities to be involved in the intended project were missing as well as their location on the Mono plain; some figures in the budget tables not appropriately written and some inputs were 6 months for a 8-month pre-project (see budget item 41).

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Further improve the preliminary problem identification by explaining how the future project could contribute to address the identified key problem, describing the problems that impede the preparation of a full project, and providing the names and location in the Mono Plain of communities to be directly affected by the identified problem to be addressed by the future project;
2. The section on the approaches and methods should still be further improved with appropriate description of approaches and methods regarding the implementation strategy building on a clear involvement of stakeholders in a participatory execution of the intended project, as well as the ownership of the project outcomes ;
3. Readjust the ITTO budget in accordance with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Check the format of figures in budget tables, in order to avoid confusion, as well as the right number or quantity of inputs,
 - b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (Sub-item 83) specified in the budget so as to conform with standard rate of 8% of the total ITTO pre-project costs; and
4. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 44th 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.

PPD 162/12 (F)

Developing Model of a Self Sufficient FMU To Implement Sustainable Forest Operations (Indonesia)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the proposal was formulated in accordance with the recommendation of the Forty-third Expert Panel with the specific objective of formulating a full project proposal to support the sustainable management of Forest Management Unit in Yogyakarta through an in-depth analysis of the socio-economic and environmental aspects as well as local institutional capacity.

However, the Panel felt that it was still difficult to understand the current status of the implementation of Forest Management Plan in Yogyakarta and questioned whether the objective of a full project proposal would focus on the development of a business plan based on the existing Forest Management Plan. The Panel also questioned the need to conduct a comprehensive survey of socio-economic and environmental aspects as the existing Forest Management Plan would include such basic information. The Panel further noted a number of weaknesses in the formulation of the proposal. These include: unclear preliminary problem analysis and problem tree; unsound identification of Outputs 1 and 2 due to their similarity to the proposed activities; and incomplete ITTO budget presentation with a significant amount of ITTO budget for the national experts/consultants. Furthermore, the Panel noted the importance of having detailed terms of reference for each expert/consultant to ensure the effective implementation of the pre-project.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Provide more information on the current status of implementing the existing Forest Management Plan in Yogyakarta to validate the proposed work for Output 1 (Reliable information on forest management status of Yogyakarta FMU reviewed);
2. Improve the preliminary problem analysis by further defining the key problem and main causes. The key problem could be related to the unsustainable management of Yogyakarta FMU. The current two main causes relating to unclear forest management status and weak social economic environment framework could be merged into one;
3. Improve the problem tree based on the refined preliminary problem analysis. In the problem tree, the identification of only sub-causes (up to a second row of a tree) is sufficient;
4. Consolidate the pre-project activities by merging Output 1 and Output 2 into one Output appropriately, as these Outputs are focusing on updated information on Yogyakarta FMU;
5. Revise the pre-project budget in the following way:
 - Scale down substantially the ITTO budget by merging Outputs 1 and 2 into one Output;
 - Justify the office supplies for each activity;
 - Exclude ITTO monitoring and review costs as it is a pre-project;
 - Provide a budget table for "Consolidated budget by component", "ITTO budget by component" and "EA budget by component";
6. Provide detailed Terms of Reference for each national expert/consultant to be funded by ITTO by providing a summary of the tasks to be executed; and
7. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 163/12 (F)

Assessing Growth and Yield Rates of Major Commercial Species for the Adjustment of Forest Management Programs in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel reiterated the significance of the project for revamping a network of permanent sample plots to predict the growth and yield of the commercial species in the natural forests of the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, with an overall view towards estimating more realistic logging cycles and therefore improving the quality and quantity of their forests in the future. The Panel also noted that the submitting agency had addressed its recommendation to come up with pre-project rather than reformulating a full project proposal. However, it further noted that the submitting agency had taken the Panel's details for the contents of the pre-project a little too literally and as such did not precisely follow the ITTO format required for a pre-project especially regarding the outputs, activities and budget tables. In this light, the Panel thought it preferable that the submitting agency re-edits the pre-project proposal so as to conform to the format established in the ITTO manual.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Re-edit the pre-project proposal so as to conform to the format established in the ITTO manual;
2. Clearly state the relevance of the pre-project to ITTO objectives and Action plan, and strengthen the justification for a pre-project
3. Consider including a forest management approach in addition to the proposed research approach;
4. Clearly specify the outputs in line with the objectives and the activities. Improve the work plan to properly reflect the objectives, activities and outputs;
5. Redo the overall pre-project budget to conform to the ITTO format and include detailed budgets by components and sources. Adjust the costs for ITTO monitoring and review to US\$5,000 per year, and recalculate ITTO's Programme Support Costs so as to conform to the standard of 8% of total ITTO project costs; and
6. Include an Annex which shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 165/12 (F)

Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on RAMSAR Sites 1017 And 1018 In Benin

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the proposal, submitted by the Government of Benin, which was well formulated and structured in accordance with the format stipulated in ITTO's Project formulation Manual. The Panel noted that the pre-project's goal is to gather useful information and data for the formulation of a project proposal aimed at contributing to the rehabilitation and sustainable management of sacred forests located in two RAMSAR sites in Benin. It also noted that sacred forests could be the only site for biodiversity conservation in most Sahel West African countries.

Moreover, the development objective, the specific objectives, expected outputs, the approaches and methods were clear and correlated in the proposal. However, there was a need for improvement regarding the following sections and sub-sections additional information on sacred forests in Benin (typology, role, size, location, etc.) in the preliminary problem identification, more information on social and economic aspects of sacred forests in the preliminary problem identification, ways and means to get the involvement of local communities due to restrictions to access in some sacred forests in the approaches and methods, technical elements in relation to the capacity and experience to work with local communities in the profile of the Executing Agency. Finally, the Panel noted that results and findings from the management of these sacred forests located in two RAMSAR sites should be used to develop a national strategy for conservation of sacred forests in Benin, in the future project to be designed through the implementation of this pre-project.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Improve the section regarding the preliminary problem identification with the inclusion of additional information on sacred forests in Benin (typology, role, size, location, etc.) and on their social and economic aspects;
2. The section on approaches and methods should be improved to ensure the involvement of local communities in the implementation of the future project especially as there are tradition-related restrictions to access some sacred forests; this section should also work on the best way to aim for the development of a national strategy for the conservation of the sacred forests in Benin;
3. Improve the profile of the Executing Agency by adding the technical elements in relation to the capacity and experience to work with local communities;
4. Readjust the ITTO budget in the following way:
 - a) Correct mistakes noticed in the calculation of component total 59 in consolidated budget, sub-totals 69 and 89 in the ITTO budget and subsequently total for all budget tables,
 - b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (Sub-item 83), after correcting the above mentioned mistakes, so as to conform with standard rate of 8% of the total ITTO pre-project costs (on the sum of budget items 10 to 82); and
5. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 44th 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 the incorporation of amendments.

PD 551/09 Rev.2 (I)

National Training Program to Promote the Adoption of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) in Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

Even though the Panel recognized the importance of RIL as part of Sustainable Forest Management, it felt that the revised proposal did not fully take into account the recommendations of the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth Experts Panels, in particular:

- The proposal did not build on the main results of the pre-project PPD 125/06 Rev.2 (I);
- No major changes were reflected in the LFM, lacking a good flow of the problem analysis, the development objective and the specific objective;
- No major reductions in the budget were made, in particular allocations for International Experts are still quite high and seem to be already pre-assigned to a selected consultant; and
- The proposal does not seem to build local capacity.

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.

PD 660/12 (I) **Enhancing Industrial and Community Utilization of Wood Residues from Timber Processing Mills for Improved Livelihood in Ghana (Ghana)**

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of the proposal to the Government of Ghana and ITTO. However, the project proposal was not well written and not fully in accordance with the ITTO manual for project formulation. The Panel noted that the title of the project proposal states the intention to improve livelihoods, but the project's interventions are not designed to tackle this issue. Besides, the proposal does not clearly encounter the socio-economic dimension of the use of wood residues.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Rephrase the title to reflect its focus on technical aspect of wood residues utilization;
2. Add project brief and objective tree;
3. Improve elaboration of Section 1.1 Origin. Explain the relevant aspects of the referred studies to the proposed project;
4. In Section 1.2 Relevance, add conformity with the ITTO Action Plan;
5. Add the missing conformity with the country's policy in Section 1.2 and explain the relationship of this project with the previous relevant ITTO projects;
6. Improve elaboration of the target area by specifying the project sites, as well as presentation of better maps;
7. Enhance Section 1.3.2.1 Social, environmental and economic aspects by analyzing the current situation;
8. Reformulate Section 2.1.1 by adding other related institutions, including industrial sector. Explain also the relationship between and among the institutions;
9. Improve the stakeholder analysis and explain further the stakeholders' involvement in the project;
10. Improve the problem analysis by investigating the social-economic dimension of the utilization of wood residues, especially its impacts to rural communities. Avoid solution sentences/paragraphs in the problem analysis. Reformulate the problem tree and the project's objectives according to the revision of the problem analysis. Add the objective tree;
11. Taking into account the changes made in the problem tree rewrite the LFM. Revise the outputs in consistency with Part 3. Reformulate the indicators into SMART indicators;
12. Fill in the column responsible party of the Workplan;
13. Reformulate the budget arrangement in accordance with ITTO manual. ITTO's and EA's yearly budget are missing;
14. Improve the section on Assumptions and risks and add the section on Sustainability;
15. Rewrite the whole part of Part 4. Improve elaboration of the Sections. Project management team must be completed, and ITTO and donor countries must be included in the steering committee members;
16. Add TOR for the consultants; and

17. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 44th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text of the revised proposal.

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 671/12 (I)

Boosting Investments in the Processing and Marketing of Forest Products in Atalaya (Peru)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of the project proposal to the Government of Peru on improving the contribution of forest resources utilization to the national economy. The Panel also noted that the proposal is well formulated.

The Panel requested additional baseline information of the project area, related to the status of forest industry and people involved in forest industry activities, in order to enhance the clarity of the project objectives and its interventions as they are elaborated in the Specific Recommendation below.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. If possible, add satellite imagery maps showing the current situation of the forest areas where the project site is located;
2. In Section 1.3 Target Area, add information on who are doing business in forestry sector (local or urban people), existing social groups and their organization, and information on the negative impacts of the project implementation;
3. Check consistency of the provided figures of the number of inhabitants in the stakeholder analysis with the figures in Section 1.3.2;
4. Improve the development objective indicators by taking into account also the increase in the number of families involved in forest industry activities; regarding all indicators chosen, provide the baseline reference data to enable proper assessment of the gap between the existing situation and the project's completion;
5. Make sure that the completion of the surveys of Output 1 will be adequate and sufficient to enable timely approval of the PIFA design and consequently budget provision by the Peruvian state authorities;
6. Consider moving Activity 1.9 of Output 1 to Output 4. Distinguish Activity 4.1 of Output 4 into technical and administrative training plans;
7. In Section 3.2 on Implementation approaches and methods, clarify sub-bullet 2 "To ensure the participation of the local population, participatory rural assessments or other similar strategies will be used". Clarify bullet Prior Experience;
8. In the Workplan section, extend the duration of Activity 2.1 and Activity 3.4; and
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 44th 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 the incorporation of amendments.

PD 672/12 (I,F)

**Industrial Forestry in the North of the Huehuetenango Department,
Guatemala (Guatemala)**

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The panel recognized the importance of sustainable forest management and industrialization of timber as an important mean for development of the northern region of Huehuetenango in Guatemala, however the Panel felt that the proposal was too broad, difficult to read and rather weak in its formulation, thus making it difficult to understand what it wants to achieve.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Including a list of acronyms;
2. The section on the "Target Area" could be improve with the use of better maps and a more detailed description of the state of silviculture and forest industry in the area, rather than agriculture;
3. The description of the "Expected Outputs after Project Completion" should indicate in concrete terms what the proposal intends to deliver;
4. The Stakeholders analysis fails to describe how the various actors were involved in the formulation of the proposal, including local communities in the area that may not be members of Frente de Pueblos Unidos de Guatemala;
5. The Problem Analysis is difficult to understand, text should be provided to explain where the Problem tree is coming from; the Problem tree is also difficult to follow, and some of the causes do not follow a proper logic, such as the cause of lack of technical assistance from the State, and lack of opportunities;
6. Under the LFM, the Development Objective should be clearer and focused, according to the title of the proposal. The outputs are not in line with the Specific Objective for the establishment of an industrial timber cluster;
7. Under output 1, it is not clear why activity P1-A2 has to be carried out in the Northeast and Southwest of Guatemala;
8. The section on "Implementation approaches and methods" does not follow the Manual for Project Formulation and is more a description of different groups, rather than a methodology on how the project will be executed for the attainment of its expected outputs;
9. The budget tables 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 do not match with the tables of Master budget and Consolidated Budget by Components;
10. The sustainability of the proposal is not clear, and the ratio of profitability lacks of any evidence or calculations;
11. Under "Implementation arrangements" INAB is mentioned as a Collaborative Agency, activity P1-A1 aims to establish a Memorandum of Understanding with INAB, and no letter of support was attached;
13. The Project Steering Committee has 3 representatives of the Executing Agency, while there is no representation of the stakeholders; and
14. Annexes 1 and 2 are too extensive, and should follow the Manual for project formulation.

C) Conclusion

Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project proposal is required. The Pre-project shall focus on only one of the key problems (sustainable forest management or industrialization of timber) and be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal.

PPD 161/12 (I) **Formulation of a Project Proposal for the Development of the Tara (*Caesalpinia spinosa*) Production Chain in the Andean Region (Peru and Ecuador) (Peru)**

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that the proposed pre-project deals with a formulation of a proposal to implement a regional program for the development of Tara (*Caesalpinia spinosa*) production chain in the Andean region. The Panel acknowledged the relevance of the proposal to the region.

However, the proposal is not fully presented in accordance with the ITTO Manual. Besides, there is insufficient clarity on what objectives the proposal is meant for, who are the target groups, what are the involved countries, and what is the connection between the proposed pre-project and the on-going ITTO project [PD583/10 Rev.1 (F)]. The Panel also saw the need to add information on what is lacking with the existing policies on Tara development in the respective countries involved.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Clarify the status of Bolivia: is it a participating country in the pre-project as is mentioned in some parts of the proposal or otherwise clearly exclude it throughout the proposal;
2. In Section 1.1 Origin and Justification, highlight what information is already available and the areas of the Tara production chain that are in need of improvement, elaborate on the involvement of the participating countries (Peru and Ecuador and Bolivia if need be) in this pre-project, and remove the paragraph that explains the status of the other NTFP (the last paragraph of page 4);
3. Reformulate the Outputs and rephrase into more 'output' like sentences. What is necessary and sufficient to achieve a full project proposal? Use qualitative and quantitative terms to indicate the expected situation at the completion of the pre-project. Combine Output 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 and remove Output 3.1.6;
4. Rewrite and specify the Approaches and Methods used. Describe how stakeholders will be identified and consulted. Explain how studies will be conducted and information gathered. Set out the approaches and methods that will be applied to build ownership for and secure commitment to the intended project.
5. Adjust the Schedule of Activities into 6 months duration;
6. Merge Table Inputs into Budget Table;
7. Include government agency/ies into the pre-project management structure;
8. Improve Section 4.4.3 Mainstreaming and dissemination of pre-project achievement by elaborating on the involvement of communities and governments (local and national) from the start of the pre-project;
9. Rearrange the budget in accordance with the ITTO manual and also redistribute the allocated budget by lessening to allocation for personnel; and
10. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 43rd Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text of the revised proposal.

C) Conclusion

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

PPD 164/12 (I) Bamboo Technology Eco-Park in Acre, Brazil (Brazil)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the value of the proposal as it intends to utilize and industrialize an abundant natural resource in order to reduce the pressure on the forest as a source of timber, bring development to the region and social inclusion for local communities. Nonetheless the Panel felt that the need of a pre-project rather than a full project proposal should be better highlighted, further more the proposal did not fully adhere to the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation.

Besides, the Panel felt that the proponent could benefit from the results of a similar ITTO project executed in Peru in the same ecological region, namely PD 428/06 Rev.2 (F) "promoting the rehabilitation, management and sustainable use of tropical bamboo forests in the north-western region of Peru".

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Clearly indicate why a pre-project is needed rather than a full project proposal;
2. The development objective should be more focused in line with the frame of a pre-project;
3. The LFM should follow the Manual for Project Formulation; therefore it must be formulated up to the level of outputs, while activities should be taken out and clearly described but as part of the main text;
4. Activities have to be more oriented towards the achievement of their respective outputs, and therefore text such as "*elaborating terms of reference*" should be avoided in the description of the activity but rather details on what is actually going to be accomplished provided. Also in this section, the Panel felt that output 1.6 should be actually an activity of output 1.5;
5. The section on "Implementation approaches and methods" should be more detailed and also provide information on how the stakeholders will be involved in the execution of the pre-project and the formulation of the full project proposal;
6. Budget tables should follow the Manual for Project Formulation. One detailed and breakdown budget table per funding source is required, the tables should provide enough detail of the composition of each main category (i.e., Capital items may be composed of computers, GPS, laboratory equipment, machinery, etc., Duty travel may be composed of domestic air fare, DSA, local transport, etc.);
7. The budget should include the provision for ITTO program support (8% of the total funds requested from ITTO); and
8. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 44th 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 the incorporation of amendments.

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that the majority of the previous recommendations were addressed. The Panel recognized the clear definition of the problem to be address by the proposal, but felt that the linkages within the problem tree should be improved.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Under the problem tree, clear linkages should be established between the key problem and the effects. The Panel felt that the effects as currently described are not directly related to the key problem. Also revise cause 1 as it reads the same as the key problem. If necessary, update the objective tree accordingly;
2. Scale down Activity 1.1 by taking into account the results of the various types of traceability technologies tested under the pre-project PPD 138/07 Rev.1 (M) and thus reducing its budget.
3. Re-allocate the costs under sundry, such as facilitator and speaker to Sub-contracts, and office rent (counterpart contribution) to Capital Items.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel considered the modifications contained in the revised project proposal in response to the comments and specific recommendations made by the Forty-third Expert Panel. It was the opinion of the Panel that in spite of the efforts made by the proponent to improve the proposal, some of those comments and specific recommendations had not been adequately addressed in the revised proposal.

In its assessment of Part 1: Project Context, the Panel noted that the relevance of the revised proposal to Gabon's policies was still inadequately presented, restricted only to in-situ conservation in the context of CBD without any specific reference to Gabon's policies or relevance to his forest sector. The information on the geographical focus of PROTA was also found to be inadequate particularly in showing how the revised proposal would benefit more than forty (40) countries in Tropical Africa.

Regarding Part 2: Project Rationale and Objectives, the Panel noted that a stakeholder analysis table had been included as recommended by the previous Panel. However, the Panel felt that a convincing clarification and justification was required as to why the secondary stakeholders were targeted to be the direct beneficiaries of the revised proposal instead of the primary stakeholders. Besides, the inclusion of a solution tree was noted but its linkage to the problem tree had not been clearly presented. The introduction of the term 'indigenous resources' in the development objective of the revised proposal should also be defined and explained. The logical framework matrix could also benefit from the inclusion of SMART indicators particularly for the development and specific objectives of the revised proposal.

Concerning Part 3: Description of Project Interventions, the disparity in the budget for project personnel and sub-contracts between Africa and Europe had not been mitigated and reduced as recommended by the previous Panel. The Panel was not convinced with the argument provided in Appendix A of the revised proposal.

As for Part 4: Implementation Arrangements, the Panel noted that the dissemination of project results could extend beyond the web database and distribution of the books and CDs while the mainstreaming of project learning could be further elaborated particularly in reaching out to practitioners in trade, industry, the private sector, local groups and indigenous people.

B) Specific Recommendations

To further enhance the revised proposal, the Panel recommended that it be further revised in accordance with the overall assessment above and the following recommendations:

1. Provide clearer description and explanation of the relevance of the revised proposal to Gabon's policies, since Gabon is the submitting country.
2. Elaborate on the focus of the revised proposal and how it will benefit more than forty (40) countries in Tropical Africa.
3. Refine the stakeholder analysis and update the table and justify why the secondary stakeholders are targeted to be the direct beneficiaries instead of the primary stakeholders.
4. Strengthen and refine the problem analysis and make more linkage between the problem tree and the solution tree.
5. Define and explain the term 'indigenous resources' included in the development objective of the revised proposal.
6. Refine and transform the indicators into SMART indicators particularly in respect of the development and specific objectives of the revised proposal.
7. Mitigate and reduce the disparity in the budget for project personnel and sub-contracts between those in Africa and Europe.

8. Further expand and elaborate measures to optimize the dissemination of project results and mainstreaming project learning.
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to improve forest governance and forest law enforcement so as to achieve the sustainable management of natural forests in Colombia, focusing on the most representative forest areas of the country, particularly those areas where forest resources are under direct pressure.

The Panel considered the modifications contained in the revised project proposal in response to the comments and specific recommendations made by the Forty-third Expert Panel. Although many improvements were made in relevant sections by the proponent based on the recommendations of the Panel, the revised proposal still has some key weaknesses such as the reference to ITTO guidelines on SFM and its set of C&I, the specific objective and the project budget.

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

B) Specific Recommendations

1. The revision mentioned some references to ITTO's principles and C&I for SFM, but rather than just references, clear elaboration is needed on how these ITTO guidelines and C&I could be used for measuring progress towards SFM in the context of the project and improving the overall implementation of the project;
2. There was no significant improvement on the specific objective in line with the recommendation made by the Panel "to improve forest law enforcement and governance in Colombia" and there was no change in its indicators, means of verification and key assumptions. Therefore, they should be reformulated in line with a clearly and precisely revised specific objective;
3. The revision didn't follow the Panel's recommendation to scale down the ITTO budget and increase the counterpart's contributions. Furthermore, the project budget for personnel (esp. experts), subcontracts and travel still represents a very large percentage of the total budget. Therefore, the ITTO budget should be substantially reduced and rewritten.

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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of the project is to increase knowledge and information on the interfaces created by the interactions between markets, technology, industrial organization, and forest/environmental regulations and use this knowledge to design and promote best practices in the management of forests by industry in the region located in the quadrilateral formed by the municipalities of Tucuruí and Marabá, in the Pará state, and Imperatriz and Açailândia, in the state of Maranhão of Brazil.

The Panel noted that the overall formulation of the proposal was very poor and did not adhere to the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Specifically, the problem analysis including the problem tree in the project proposal was very weak and not clearly elaborated. The problem analysis lacks consistency and logic between the causes, problems and effects and the key problem was not clearly identified. The problem analysis and the problem tree thus need to be significantly improved and reformulated.

The Panel also noted that the Logical Framework was not well formulated following the weak problem analysis. The development objective was convoluted and its scale too specific for a development objective. Besides, the specific objective was missing from the logical framework and not correctly defined in the objectives section. The indicators of development objective and specific objective did not closely reflect the impact and outcome of the project. Moreover, outputs and activities were incoherent which appears to stem from confusions between objectives, outcomes, outputs and activities.

The Panel also noted that the project budget tables were confusing and did not appropriately follow the ITTO format. The budget by activity was not correctly presented. The personnel cost amounted to 2/3 of the total budget, of which the budget for national experts accounted for almost half of the total budget. In addition, there were no budget arrangements for ITTO monitoring, evaluation and program support. Therefore, the budget section of the project proposal should be streamlined and totally rewritten.

The Panel further noted that some other critical weaknesses existed in the following sections and sub-sections of the project proposal: origin and relevance to ITTO was not sufficiently elaborated; socioeconomic aspects need to be further analyzed including the explanation on the selection and purpose of the 15 products and species indicated; expected outcomes need to be elaborated; the numberings from 2.1 to 3.2 were incorrect; the implementation arrangement were weak and lack in information; etc.

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.

PD 662/12 (M)

Promotion of Sino-African Collaboration through Improved Forest Governance in the Congo Basin (Gabon)

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of the project is to contribute to the harmonization of incentive and regulatory frameworks for sustainable forest resources management, trade and investment in forestry in the Congo Basin and between the Congo Basin and China to strengthen the FLEGT process, to improve the diversification of the inter-regional timber trade from sustainably managed forests while reducing poverty. However, many critical incoherencies and weaknesses existed in the project proposal.

The Panel noted that this project proposal was very much similar with PD 636/12 (M) which was reviewed by Forty-third Panel. As many similar initiatives had already been implemented in the region, this proposal failed to identify the previous achievements obtained and explain what would be the added value and how to avoid overlapping as a new project.

The Panel also noted that the proposal didn't provide evidence of the support from countries involved in the region and relevant stakeholders such as Chinese forest agencies and enterprises.

The Panel also noted that the stakeholders and problem analysis were still not clearly elaborated. The stakeholder analysis should be more focused. The problem analysis needs to improve logic and coherence between the causes, problems and effects.

The Panel also noted that the Logical Framework was not well formulated based on the key problem. The specific objective was imprecise and incoherent and its indicators did not closely reflect the impact and outcomes of the project and should be more precise.

The Panel also noted that the implementation arrangements were weak and unclear. The relationship between the EA and other actors and how to collaborate with governments and COMIFAC should be clearly elaborated.

The Panel further noted that the project budget, particularly the personnel and travel cost amounts to 3/4 of the budget. It needs significant reduction and reformulation.

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 Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted that the proposal was about establishing a national forest statistics information management system in Benin as a basis for strengthening the management of forest resources in the country. The Panel was of the overall opinion that the proposal had been soundly formulated and well written in virtually all of its parts and sections.

In its assessment of Part 1: Project Context, the Panel noted that it was adequate and well presented. Nevertheless, the Panel felt that the average degradation costs of 3-5 percent of the GDP should be substantiated.

On Part 2: Project Rationale, the Panel noted that it was well presented with a detailed stakeholder and problem analysis which were both logical, clear and consistent, leading to a concise logical framework matrix with clear development and specific objectives and an optimal number of outputs. However, the proposal could benefit from an elaboration of the role of the six forest inspectorates at the field level under sub-section 2.1.1 – Institutional set up and organizational issues. Furthermore, additional information and explanation were needed on how DGFRN would be able to implement the proposal with its forest staff not sufficiently trained in information collection and management. The furnishing of information on the composition of the working group which identified the proposal's stakeholders would also be useful while the breaking up of primary stakeholders (PS) 4 could further enhance the stakeholder analysis table. Similarly, the logical framework matrix could be improved by refining the indicator for the development objective to further strengthen the long-term impact of the proposal.

With regards to Part 3: Description of Project Interventions, the mere establishment of the PSC was not sufficient to be regarded as an activity and activity A.1.1 should therefore be deleted. Moreover, the inclusion of the PSC would be relevant only to those proposals with an ITTO budget component of at least US\$400,000.00 and a duration of 24 months. Potential users of the system should also be involved in the proposal from the beginning of its implementation. Under the Workplan, activity A.3.1 should be scheduled at the commencement of the implementation of the proposal ahead of activities A.2.1 and A.2.2. The budget tables as presented were complete and comprehensive. However, it was doubtful that the proposed workshop under activity A.2.3. to train 600 data collectors could be achieved within the time and budget allocated. The budget for the printing and dissemination of the proposed forest statistics year book also appeared to be unrealistically low while the frequency for the meetings of the project technical committee (PTC) in place of the PSC should be reduced from six to two.

On Part 4: Implementation Arrangements, the proposal could benefit from a brief explanation of how DGFRN as the Executing Agency would be assisted in the implementation of the proposal by those agencies indicated in the proposal. The provision for the PSC should be changed into a PTC and a schedule for reporting, monitoring and evaluation should be provided. In examining the profile of the Executing Agency, the Panel noted that the annual budget allocated to DGFRN had sharply declined in recent years. An explanation for this reduction and its implication on the capacity of DGFRN to implement the proposal should be provided, too.

B) Specific Recommendations

To further enhance the proposal, the Panel recommended that it be revised in accordance with the overall assessment above and the following recommendations:

1. Substantiate the average degradation costs as a percentage of the GDP.
2. Elaborate the role of forest inspectorates at the field level.
3. Explain how DGFRN will be able to implement the proposal with its forest staff not sufficiently trained in information collection and management.
4. Provide information on the composition of the working group, which identified the proposal's stakeholders.
5. Break up the primary stakeholders (PS) 4 in the stakeholder analysis table.
6. Refine the indicator for the development objective.
7. Delete proposed activity A.1.1.

8. Provide for the involvement of the potential users of the system from the beginning of the implementation of the proposal.
9. Reschedule activity A.3.1 at the commencement of the implementation of the proposal ahead of activities A.2.1 and A.2.2.
10. Review activity A.2.3 and the budget allocated for the printing and dissemination of the proposed forest statistics yearbook.
11. Reduce the frequency for the meetings of the PTC from six to two.
12. Provide brief explanation of how DGFRN as the Executing Agency would be assisted in the implementation of the proposal by other agencies indicated in the proposal.
13. Substitute the provision for the PSC with a PTC.
14. Explain the reduction in the annual budget for DGFRN and its implication in the capacity of DGFRN to implement the proposal.
15. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 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 the incorporation of the above amendments.

Assessment by the Forty-fourth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel considered the modifications contained in the revised pre-project proposal in response to the comments and specific recommendations made by the Forty-third Expert Panel. It was the opinion of the Panel that in spite of the efforts made by the proponent, virtually all of the comments and specific recommendations had not been adequately addressed in the revised proposal.

The Panel noted that the preliminary problem identification in the revised proposal remained weak, with no clear analysis and poorly presented. The revised proposal retained the listing of too many key problems in spite of the recommendation made by the previous Panel that these be integrated into a single key problem with its main causes and effects as well as groups affected by it clearly presented. Consequently, the revised proposal still suffered from an acute lack of clarity of what it hopes to solve and achieve, with its development objective remaining unsatisfactory and appearing more like a specific objective.

Contrary to what was recommended by the previous Panel, the number of activities had not been consolidated and reduced, full information on inputs and unit costs had not been provided, and the work plan was only slightly revised to take account of the reduced number of PRA workshops and community consultations being proposed. Although the reduction was reflected in the amount of the overall budget for the revised proposal, the budget by activity, component and source had not been reformulated according to the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation as recommended by the previous Panel.

Given the potential relevance and importance of the ideas dealt with in the revised proposal in addressing the prevailing problems in Liberia, the Panel was of the view that the proponent should consider a fresh proposal formulated according to the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation 2009.

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 proposal.