



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL  
TIMBER COUNCIL**

Distr.  
GENERAL

ITTC(L)/13  
22 September 2014

Original: ENGLISH ONLY

---

FIFTIETH SESSION  
3 – 8 November 2014  
Yokohama, Japan

**Report on the Implementation of the  
Joint ITTO – CBD Collaborative Initiative for  
Tropical Forest Biodiversity**



## Joint ITTO – CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity: Achievements to Date

### Background

In the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and the International Year of Forests 2011, the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 2 March 2010 to strengthen collaboration in the pursuit of their common objectives of conserving and sustainably managing tropical forest resources. In October and December 2010, respectively, the governing bodies of CBD and ITTC adopted Decisions welcoming the ITTO/CBD collaboration [Decision X/36 and ITTC Decision 6 (XLVI)].

A key purpose of the MoU between the ITTO and CBD secretariats is to identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity, with involvement of the other relevant organizations, including the development of an ITTO support programme for the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries (subsequently referred to as the Joint ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity).

The programme document that is the basis for concrete project activities under the Joint ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity is available in English, French and Spanish and can be downloaded from both the CBD and ITTO websites.<sup>1</sup>

### Objectives and outputs

The overall objective of the Joint ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity is to enhance biodiversity conservation in tropical forests with the direct participation of local stakeholders, addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss in tropical forests: deforestation and forest degradation. More specifically, the Initiative provides support to ITTO producer member countries to reduce losses of biodiversity through the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, focusing on the common objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the ITTO Action Plan.

This Initiative aims to achieve four key outputs, with the assistance of donors and with the close collaboration of partners in producer member countries:

1. Enhanced local capacity for biodiversity conservation in production forests and for the rehabilitation of degraded and secondary forests;
2. Improved conservation and management of protected areas, especially in association with buffering protected areas, and transboundary conservation;
3. Safeguarding tropical forest biodiversity in forestry interventions, including in REDD+ related projects; and
4. Improved welfare of local communities and indigenous groups through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

These expected outputs of the Initiative are to be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest management (SFM), with a particular emphasis on biodiversity protection; forest monitoring and adaptive management to generate multiple benefits on a sustainable basis; protection against invasive species; and enhancing the value of natural tropical forests to avoid land use change.

### Focus on production and protection forests

The Initiative focuses both on production and protection forests. Scientists estimate that tropical forests host about two thirds of all terrestrial species. Promoting the establishment of protected areas, especially in

---

<sup>1</sup> CBD: <http://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/cbd-itto-initiative-programme-document.en.pdf>

ITTO: [http://www.itto.int/documents\\_detail/contents\\_type=598 ITTC\(XLVII\)/11 ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative to Conserve Tropical Forests](http://www.itto.int/documents_detail/contents_type=598%20ITTC(XLVII)/11%20ITTO/CBD%20Collaborative%20Initiative%20to%20Conserve%20Tropical%20Forests)

forests of high conservation value including transboundary areas, is still required to meet the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 global target for 17% of terrestrial areas protected. Considering that only 13% of the world's forests are currently located in protected areas, it is essential to also promote the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity outside of protected areas. The conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in general, buffer zones of protected areas in particular, are necessary for improving livelihoods of local communities and avoid encroachment of the core conservation areas. The consumption of main timber products (roundwood, sawnwood, pulp, paper) is expected to increase over the next 30 years. The use of solid biofuels for electricity production could be three times larger by 2030 than current levels (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3). Globally, by 2050, the demand for industrial roundwood is expected to increase by 50 to 75%. The **ITTO/UCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests (2009)** reflect the clear importance in promoting biodiversity conservation outside protected areas, through the long-term sustainable use of forest resources for the sustainable livelihoods of local communities. Also, the **ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests (2002)** provides the elements to recover the biodiversity conservation capacity of degraded forests in the tropics. These ITTO guidelines are complementary to, and entirely support the CBD forest programme of work, providing guidance for the field implementation of the Initiative.

### **Operational Procedures**

ITTO leads the implementation of the Initiative in close consultation with the CBD Secretariat, donors, other partners and especially the beneficiary countries. Interested countries may submit a concept note to the ITTO Secretariat indicating their intention to develop a project or specific activity in the framework of this Initiative. The CBD Secretariat and ITTO Secretariat will assess the pertinence of the request together with the relevant stakeholders of the proposing country and will support the formulation of a full project proposal (if required) and fund raising. Donors may allocate funds to a specific project of the Initiative, or as an unearmarked contribution to the Initiative.

### **Budget**

The Collaborative Initiative has an estimated budget of \$US15 million for the initial period of 4 years, covering the three tropical regions of ITTO. The implementation of the Initiative benefits from the experience ITTO has gained in implementing projects and programs in the tropics (over 1,000 projects, pre-projects and activities in the last 25 years, amounting to US\$400,000,000). Also, the ITTO/CBD Initiative benefits from the experience gained in ITTO Programme development, including the CITES/ITTO Programme since 2007; and the ITTO Thematic Programs being currently implemented on a pilot basis. The Initiative also builds on the experiences implementing the Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

### **Project applications**

Government agencies in countries that are members of the International Tropical Timber Organization should direct inquiries to [rfm@itto.int](mailto:rfm@itto.int).

More information is also available at <http://www.itto.int>.

### **Funded projects**

To date, eleven projects under this Initiative are being piloted for a total investment of over US\$ 15 million, of which donor governments such as Japan, Switzerland, Belgium, USA and the Republic of Korea have contributed a total of US\$ 12,527,309. An outline and the current status of these eleven projects are as follows:

#### **1. Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Rainforests and Biodiversity Conservation in the ITTO Congo Basin Countries**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 4,408,557 (USD 3,890,681.69 is already secured and there is an outstanding balance of USD 517,875.31 to be secured shortly)

**Beneficiary countries:** Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon & Republic of Congo

**Executing Agency:** Network of Central African Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions (*Réseau Régional des Institutions de Formation Forestière et Environnementale d'Afrique Centrale* - RIFFEAC)

**Inception date:** April 2012

Overall, this five-year project (2012 to 2017) will contribute to building human resource capacity required to achieve sustainable forest ecosystem management in the Congo basin by reconciling socio-economic imperatives and the maintenance of ecological balances. More specifically, it aims to build the capacity for environmental and forestry training institutions in Central Africa to ensure that they are capable to train personnel to implement sustainable forest management, to ensure biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin.

Progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- The University of Laval and CERFOR (Technical Forestry Centre) of Canada, in consultation with RIFFEAC training institutions, have finalized the draft of twelve (12) reference training modules/programmes and associated teaching methodologies [six (6) at university level and six (6) at a lower level];
- A regional training workshop is planned for September 2014 for the validation of these reference training modules/programmes and associated teaching methodologies by all RIFFEAC training institution members, including those not directly supported by the project PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F); and
- The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) is continuing the consultation process with all seven RIFFEAC training institutions (CRESA-Yaounde in Cameroon, ENEF-Libreville in Gabon, ENEF-Mbalmayo in Cameroon, ERAIFT-Kinshasa in Democratic Republic of Congo, IDR-Brazzaville in Republic of Congo, ISDR-Mbaiki in Central African Republic and University of Dschang in Cameroon) in order to update and re-adjust their needs for building construction, rehabilitation, capital equipment and materials in correlation with the twelve (12) reference training modules/programmes and associated teaching methodologies to be validated in September 2014.

## 2. Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR)

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 577/10 Rev.1 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 2,051,039

**Beneficiary countries:** Cambodia & Thailand

**Executing Agencies:** The Forestry Administration of Cambodia together with Royal Forest Department of Thailand.

**Inception date:** August 2012

Overall, this three-year project (2012-2015) envisages conserving forest biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex situated between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR, under the framework of a trans-boundary biodiversity conservation area (TBCA). The Emerald Triangle has some of the most extensive continuous natural forests in Southeast Asia containing large numbers of globally threatened species and is a last refuge for sixteen "Critically Endangered" and "Endangered" species from the IUCN Red List. Specifically, the project aims to strengthen the protection of trans-boundary habitats of the endangered wide-ranging wildlife species in the Emerald Triangle.

This project became operational in August 2012, and to date, both beneficiary countries are already collecting and exchanging information on wildlife distribution between them and are planning joint research activities on regional biodiversity. The Fourth Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was organized in

Siem Reap, Cambodia on 4 July 2014 to review the implementation of project activities. Among the recommendations of the fourth PSC meeting was to ensure the participation of the project team in CBD COP 12 in Korea in 2014, to increase dissemination of project results and the visibility of the Emerald transboundary partnership established by the project.

Progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

**Cambodian component:**

- An assessment of land use and carbon stocks in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest (PVPF) has been carried out and the preparation of technical reports is underway;
- The mapping of the distribution of key wildlife landscape species in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest (PVPF) is currently under preparation based on the assessment of wildlife distribution in and around PVPF, especially along the borders with Lao PDR;
- Law enforcement patrols in PVPF and in its surrounding areas are being periodically carried out in cooperation with military police and provincial military officers since January 2013. Eleven incidences of illegal activities were recorded in the project sites during the reporting period. These illegal activities resulted in the confiscation of 100 kg of wild meat, 34 m<sup>3</sup> of wood, 1 chainsaw and 15 wild animal traps. Reports of enforcement patrols to reduce incidences of illegal forest activities in the target sites are prepared in Khmer and submitted to the Head of Forestry Administration management by the Preah Vihear Forestry Administration Cantonment;
- The second joint research and training activities on wide-ranging species distribution and land use changes was organized in Preah Vihear Cantonment in Cambodia on 11 to 14 March 2014. Practical training was provided to local forestry administration staffs and other local stakeholders in GIS mapping, land-use planning, and forest management;
- The construction of a project headquarters has been completed and is now in use for staff of the Preah Vihear Forest Administration Cantonment, as well as other organizations with sustainable forest resource management or biodiversity conservation programs operating in or around the Preah Vihear Protected Forest; and
- Field interviews on livelihood improvements with local people have been conducted in five targeted local communities. The project team has visited integrated communities development sites established in Phase II of the project to discuss planned activities in Phase III. The monitoring of those activities has revealed improvements in the numbers of cows in the cow bank from 13 to 32, the amount of rice in the rice bank from 16.50 tons to 25.07 tons, the availability of credit from USD 1,000 to USD 1,430, and other provisions, including the planting of fruit trees and chicken raising, since the completion of the previous phase of the project.

**Thai component:**

- Wildlife trainings/workshops were organized successfully with the cooperation of Kasetsart University, Thailand and Champasak University, Lao PDR from 12 to 15 December 2013, with the participation of scientists and officials from the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP). The cooperation on wildlife research between the two universities is on-going;
- GIS and wildlife capacity-building training workshops were organized from February 5 to 6, 2014 to prevent wildlife poaching, illegal logging, illegal trading and collection of wild plants. A joint training/workshop on research on land use changes in the Emerald Triangle was organized in Cambodia from 10 to 15 March 2014, with the participation of staff from Champasak University, DNP and project team;
- Preparation of a scientific paper on consequences of land-use change on wide-ranging species distributions in the Emerald Triangle is underway;
- The Project team regularly visits the communities and villages involved with the biodiversity conservation inside and outside protected areas for livelihood improvement assessments. Meetings to review the establishment of nurseries and a tissue culture laboratory for orchid demassification were organized during January to May 2014. The concerned local communities/local stakeholders are establishing nurseries and a tissue culture laboratory to increase income generation activities;
- Collaboration is underway with forest protection units of the project sites to prevent wildlife poaching, illegal logging, illegal trading and the collection of wild plants. A workshop on prevention of wildlife poaching, illegal logging, illegal trading and collection of wild plants was organized from February 5 to 6, 2014; and
- Ecotourism training workshops were also organized for local communities and protected areas staff. Local community fora and networks to facilitate biodiversity conservation are being continuously enhanced. Raising public awareness through school drawing contests and exhibitions of biodiversity

conservation are regularly organized to support community-based conservation activities.

### **3. Building Capacities of ACTO Member Countries in Ecologically Responsible Forest Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Managed Forests of the Amazon**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PP-A/47-266  
**ITTO Budget:** USD 1,320,224  
**Beneficiary countries:** Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela  
**Executing Agency:** Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)  
**Inception date:** July 2013

The project aims to enhance biodiversity conservation and strengthen environmental guidelines in managed forests across the Amazon Region. Specifically, the project aims at establishing an interdisciplinary process for building and delivering the technical capacity necessary for implementing ecologically responsible forest management in public and private production forests of the Amazon region.

Delegates from the eight ACTO member countries met at the project's first Steering Committee meeting held at Puyo, Ecuador in March 2014, and defined the details of the project's activities and further finalized the project document. The project's first Yearly Plan of Operations was also developed and approved based on the final project document. The project coordinator was selected and some project activities have already commenced.

### **4. Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PPD 165/12 Rev.1 (F)  
**ITTO Budget:** USD79,380  
**Beneficiary countries:** Benin  
**Executing Agency:** Ce.Sa.Re.N  
**Inception date:** 25 April 2013

This 8-month pre-project aims to contribute to the sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity in Benin by building the capacity of local communities to improve their living conditions, through the conservation of sacred forests part of Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018. This pre-project will contribute to addressing the lack of necessary information and data required for the preparation of a project dealing with the sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity of sacred forests.

Progress in pre-project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- Consultation and awareness campaigns have been initiated to ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders of Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 which have multiple functions (religious, ecological, socio-economic, cultural, etc.);
- Appropriate studies and surveys (socio-economic, environmental, cultural, mapping, etc.) are being carried out in the target area of the future project; and
- A project proposal is under preparation with the information and data gathered through the abovementioned studies and surveys.

**5. Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) as the Trans-boundary Ecosystem between Indonesia and State of Sarawak Malaysia - Phase III**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 617/11 Rev.4 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 941,559

**Beneficiary country:** Indonesia

**Executing Agency:** Betung Kerihun National (BKNP), Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA), Ministry of Forestry (MOF)

**Inception date:** October 2013

Overall, this 4-year project (2013-2017) aims to promote sustainable conservation management of the Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) established in 1992 covering around 800,000 ha, as a transboundary ecosystem between Indonesia and Malaysia (Sarawak). The project will focus on strengthening transboundary cooperation with Sarawak so as to enhance commonly shared ecosystems and other conservation concerns.

The project's transboundary conservation cooperation is focused on the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) and the Batang Ai National Park (BANP) in Sarawak sites which are adjacent to BKNP in Indonesia. The project will be implemented by BKNP in collaboration with many stakeholders including WWF-Indonesia in order to ensure the conservation of the integrity of BKNP's biodiversity values. The project activities include establishing a joint task force for the efficient implementation of the transboundary conservation area (TBCA) with the participation of representatives from LEWS and BANP. The expected outputs of the project are: (1) cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia for the conservation of transboundary ecosystem between BKNP and BANP/LEWS; (2) formulation of an operational work plan on biodiversity conservation for the transboundary ecosystems; and (3) Improving the sustainable livelihoods of the local communities within and surrounding BKNP.

Project activities commenced in October 2013. Progress in project implementation includes the following:

- A Ministerial Working Group (MWG) has been formed through a decree of BKNP Director establishing terms of reference and membership; The MWG is currently at the stage of holding internal meetings and communicating with LEWS and BANP authorities for the conservation of transboundary ecosystems of BKNP and BANP/LEWS; The Executing Agency is also exploring partnerships with TFCA Kalimantan, GIZ-FORCLIME, HOB initiative, WWF Indonesia and JICA-IJREDD Project;
- In collaboration with WWF Indonesia, baseline information and data are being analyzed for the development of eco-farming and utilization of non-timber forest products to increase livelihoods of concerned local communities; and
- The Executing Agency is working on addressing the communication gap between BKNP authority and WWF Indonesia in order to facilitate collaborative efforts. A national consultant has been recruited to develop a community based eco-tourism programme in transboundary ecosystems. The consultant has reviewed existing information on eco-tourism developments in BKNP and is analyzing the relevant information.

**6. Buffer Zone Management for Pulong Tau National Park with Involvement of Local Communities in Management, Sarawak, Malaysia**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 635/12 Rev.2 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 517,450

**Beneficiary country:** Malaysia

**Executing Agency:** Forest Department of Sarawak

**Inception date:** August 2014



The establishment and management of buffer zones in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries is increasingly important as rapid economic development activities continue to expand into rural areas, causing more natural forests to be disturbed, and resource-rich totally protected forests may become vulnerable to illegal encroachment.

In light of the importance of sustainably managing the Pulong Tau National Park (PTNP), this 2-year project (2014-2016) aims to facilitate the establishment of a 6,000 ha buffer zone and securing a forest base to meet the communities' needs. The project will study the multiple functions of buffer zones for environmental services like watershed protection, biodiversity conservation and research, and communal use. Guidelines for buffer zone management will be developed and submitted to the State Government for consideration. The project's outputs and activities will involve baseline surveys to determine the buffer zone's resources for integrated management, assessing local subsistence needs and how the buffer zone will be able to provide these needs. Local involvement in management will include development of non-timber forest products, handicrafts and ecotourism, for which training will be given. The project objectives and outputs will be met through integrated buffer zone management, training, and active involvement of primary and secondary stakeholders. The project will be sustained by the Forest Department of Sarawak (FDS) through its Community Service Initiative Unit (CSIU).

The agreement to implement the project was finalized in May 2014. After the approval of the yearly plan of operation for project implementation in August 2014, the Executing Agency has created a project management unit by recruiting staff and setting up a database framework for the development of an integrated buffer zone management plan.

## **7. Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity in the Tacaná Volcano and its Range of Influence in Mexico and Guatemala**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 668/12 Rev.1 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 641,639

**Beneficiary country:** Guatemala and Mexico

**Executing Agency:** HELVETAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION (HSI)

**Inception date:** July 2014

Guatemala and Mexico share the Tacaná Volcano border area that straddles the Department of San Marcos and the State of Chiapas, an area in the Mesoamerican Biodiversity Corridor, featuring biological richness and ecotourism potential, but the area is affected by poverty and natural resources are used unsustainably. An initiative was developed for sustainable development in the protected areas of the Tacaná Volcano border area, based on coordinated actions, a study of the situation and various exchanges between regional representatives of Mexican and Guatemalan Government institutions, civil society and the Swiss organization, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation.

The objective of this project is to contribute to improving the living standards of 28,000 people in both countries, based on the conservation and sustainable use of local natural resources. More specifically, it will launch 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 project 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, upgrading of the legal framework of protected areas and enhancement of collaboration between both countries.

Expected outputs are: i) Pilot areas for restoration or conservation have been established in a participatory manner; ii) Pilot projects are identified and established with the community, to enhance local livelihoods, including: ecotourism, agro-forestry and livestock-forestry systems; iii) The technical and legal framework for integrated management in Tacaná Volcano has been updated; and iv) Local communities, Municipal Councils and public bodies share information, take decisions by consensus and are actively involved in the Guatemala – Mexico Binational Cooperation.

The agreement for the implementation of the project was signed in December 2013. The yearly plan of operation for project implementation was approved in July 2014 and project activities commenced

immediately after. The project's first Steering Committee meeting is expected to meet in early September 2014.

**8. Strengthening Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation in the Biosphere Reserve of Northwestern Peru**

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 601/11 Rev.3 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 496,290

**Beneficiary country:** Peru

**Executing Agency:** MDA

**Inception date:** August 2014

The project was approved under the ITTO Spring 2012 Project Cycle, but was not funded at that time. However, the Council had authorized the Executive Director to start its implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. In accordance with the Decision of the ITTO Council, after the 20-month validity period, this project would expire, unless revised and resubmitted to the Council prior to the end of the validity period.

Mangrove forests constitute one of the most vulnerable ecosystems to climate change, while at the same time being an ecosystem that can sequester and store amongst the highest volumes of carbon. The National System for Natural Protected Areas (SINANPE) has contributed to the sustainability of mangrove ecosystems by establishing the National Sanctuary of Tumbes Mangroves (Santuario Nacional de los Manglares de Tumbes – SNLMT). However, there are insufficient participatory mechanisms for the overall conservation of mangrove forest ecosystems in the Piura and Tumbes regions. This in turn leads to low living standards for the communities living in mangrove ecosystem areas that have been lost, with the resultant loss of biodiversity.

To address this situation, this proposal envisages improving the standard of living of the population in mangrove ecosystem areas in the regions of Tumbes and Piura. More specifically, it will increase the number of participatory mechanisms for mangrove forest protection, conservation and rehabilitation in the regions of Tumbes and Piura through: (1) Adequate use of legal powers by regional and local governments for the conservation of mangrove forests; (2) Improving the level of forest administration and management so as to preserve mangrove ecosystems; and (3) Developing and implementing financial sustainability strategies for mangrove forests.

The main project outcomes that are expected to be achieved upon project completion are: (i) Strengthening the management capacity for the conservation of mangrove forests in two regional governments and two municipalities ; (ii) Establishing three protected areas: the Mangrove /Dry Forest Biological Corridor, the San Pedro de Vice Mangrove Forest and the New Vichayal Mangrove Forest; (iii) Improving the management efficiency of the National Sanctuary of Tumbes Mangroves (SNLMT); (iv) Promoting through the implementation of 10 sub-projects for sustainable economic activities the appropriate use of resources (forest and hydrobiological resources) in mangrove forests; and (v) Promoting financial mechanisms to contribute to the sustainability of mangrove forests.

The agreement to implement the project was signed in September 2014 and the Executing Agency is currently developing the project's inception report in order to receive the first disbursement of funds.

## 9. Community Based Restoration and Sustainable Management of Vulnerable Forests of the Rewa Delta, Viti Levu

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 310,576 .00

**Beneficiary country:** Fiji

**Executing Agency:** Department of Forest, Ministry of Fisheries and Forest, Republic of the Fiji

**Inception date:** TBD

The coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta (35,238 ha) of Fiji are undoubtedly a source of important marine and terrestrial resource for local communities in the area, but more importantly, these forests safeguard the entire coastal ecosystem that supports riparian flat lands. However, the wetlands have been affected by social and economic pressures, and policy is not aligned to a single Government Agency. Resource extraction has resulted in reduction in vegetated areas and habitat loss as well as declining quality in livelihood opportunities.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta, while improving the livelihoods of local communities. Specifically, the project proposes: restoration and management of at least 3,381 hectares as demonstration site; training of 17 communities involved in raising awareness on the importance of wetlands; and the development of alternative livelihood options to reduce overdependence on the coastal and mangrove wetland vegetation. The target community lies within the Tikina of Bau, Tailevu, a densely populated area in the Rewa Delta.

Expected outputs of the project include the collation of key issues on coastal and mangrove wetlands and the formulation of relevant policy framework. In addition, it is expected that communities will adopt alternative livelihoods that will reduce pressure from over-utilization of coastal and mangrove wetland resources; and by the end of the project, at least 500 ha of the degraded area in the selected demonstration site would be rehabilitated with appropriate coastal tree species to support ecosystem services and human wellbeing in the long term.

The project was approved and financed at the ITTC Session XLIX in November 2013 but has not started yet. The project agreement was sent to the official contact point (Department of Forest, Ministry of Fisheries and Forest), Republic of Fiji in February 2014 for signature and ITTO expects to receive it in October 2014.

## 10. Promoting Conservation of Selected High-value Indigenous Species of Sumatra

**ITTO Ref. No.:** PD 710/13 Rev.1 (F)

**ITTO Budget:** USD 479,976.00

**Beneficiary country:** Indonesia

**Executing Agency:** Forest Research Institute, Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA)

**Inception date:** TBD

Sumatra is the largest island in Indonesia and has abundant biological diversity, including many indigenous plant species. Some of the high-value indigenous species are Sumatran yew (*Taxus sumatrana*), Sumatran merbau (*Intsia palembanica*), and lesser-known non-timber forest products (NTFPs) producing species. However, over-exploitation, encroachment, and illegal activities have made many of the high-value species threatened with extinction. High commercially valuable timber species such as Sumatran merbau, kulim, andalas, and giam have been excessively and illegally logged for the past several decades. Lesser-known NTFPs producing species have also been illegally collected, whereas, endemic and relatively limited distribution and small population size, *T. sumatrana* has been threatened by habitat encroachment, population disruption and illegal logging.

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the sustainable management of selected high-value indigenous plant species of Sumatra. The specific objective of the project is to enhance the achievement of conservation goals through revitalization of the existing conservation program, harvest control systems, and regeneration. The expected outputs are: (1) accelerated conservation of selected high-value indigenous species; (2) promotion of harvest control of those species; and (3) improving the regeneration capacity of those species. Primary beneficiaries of the project are local communities, local governments, Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation (MoF), Ministry of Environment, BAPPENAS, and Indonesian Institute of Science (LIPI). The benefits of the project range from updated data and information on distribution, conservation status and protection, and the regeneration of selected high-value indigenous species. This proposed project will also contribute to the socioeconomic improvement of the forest-dependent community.

The project agreement for regulating project implementation has been signed by the Indonesian Government, Executing Agency and ITTO. Detailed yearly plans of operation and a project inception report are being finalized by the Executing Agency.

#### **11. Building the Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in Trans-boundary Conservation Areas (TBCAs) in the Congo Basin Countries through Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Practices and the Use of Satellite and Radar Imagery**

<b>ITTO Ref. No.:</b>	PP-A/50-296
<b>ITTO Budget:</b>	USD 1,280,619 for Phase 1 (out of a total amount of USD 5,539,162)
<b>Beneficiary country:</b>	Angola, <b>Cameroon</b> , Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, <b>Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)</b> , Equatorial Guinea, <b>Gabon</b> , <b>Republic of Congo</b> & Rwanda [ <i>ITTO members in bold</i> ]
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	Network of Protected Areas in Central Africa ( <i>Réseau des Aires Protégées d'Afrique Centrale</i> - RAPAC)
<b>Inception date:</b>	TBD (after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by all parties: COMIFAC, RAPAC and ITTO).

Overall, this three-year project intends to contribute to the management of threats to biodiversity in trans-boundary protected areas (TBCAs) in the countries of the Congo Basin. Specifically the project intends to build the capacity and expertise in the use of satellite imagery data for the management of TBCAs in the Congo Basin countries.

Upon completion, the project will raise awareness among policy makers and senior officers of TBCAs to the benefits of increased satellite imagery use. This will enable TBCA managers and policy makers to make full use of satellite imagery in several areas, including:

- Improving the strategic and operational data for the management and monitoring of TBCAs;
- Supporting the control of illegal practices, including poaching and illegal logging;
- Monitoring spatial and temporal changes in habitats and ecosystems;
- Land planning;
- Forest zoning;
- Supporting the development of integrated decision-support systems in the management of TBCAs; and
- Improved mapping of ecosystems and habitats, as well as biological corridors.

The Government of Japan, in March 2014, has provided an amount of USD 1,280,619, to fund the first phase of this Activity. The draft Memorandum of Understanding, which shall govern the implementation of this Activity, was sent to the Secretariat of COMIFAC (Commission of Central African Forests) and the Secretariat of RAPAC (Network of Protected Areas in Central Africa) for review and comments prior to being signed by all parties (COMIFAC on behalf of Congo Basin countries, RAPAC as the executing agency, and ITTO).

Additional projects currently approved and under consideration for funding include the following:

**“Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar”** submitted by the Government of Myanmar with an ITTO budget of US\$3,093,976 [ITTO Ref. No.: PD 723/13 Rev.1 (F)]

**“Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Benin”** submitted by the Government of Benin with an ITTO budget of US\$72,900 [ITTO Ref. No.: PPD 160/12 Rev.1 (F)]

**“Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana”** submitted by the Government of Ghana with an ITTO budget of US\$489,194 [ITTO Ref. No.: PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F)]

**“Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Indonesia (Indonesia)”** submitted by the Government of Indonesia with an ITTO budget of US\$498,154 [ITTO Ref. No.: PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F)]

**“Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (Diospyros Celebica Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia)”** submitted by the Government of Indonesia with an ITTO budget of US\$402,550 [ITTO Ref. No.: PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F)]

**“Local Capacity Building for the Management of Secondary and Residual Primary Forests in the Provinces of Coronel Portillo and Padre Abad, Department of Ucayali, Peru”** submitted by the Government of Peru with an ITTO budget of US\$522,637 [ITTO Ref. No.: PD 742/14 Rev.1 (F)]

## Conclusion

Overall, the significant progress made in the collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) through the implementation of eleven projects covering 26 countries in the three tropical regions of the world, within the framework of the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity, is already visibly contributing towards the achievement of the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020**, and in particular, the following Forestry-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets:

**Target 5:** By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced;

**Target 7:** By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity;

**Target 11:** By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes; and

**Target 14:** By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

**Target 15:** By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

However, it should be further noted that the budget of this Collaborative Initiative for its first 4 years still falls short of its target, and therefore we reiterate our invitation to Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations to further support the Initiative, including through financial contributions.