



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

**COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

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REPORT TO THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL FROM THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

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Item 1 - Opening of the Session

The Forty-eighth Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF) was opened on 4 November 2014 at the Joint Session with the Committee on Economic Information and Market Intelligence (CEM), and the Committee on Forest Industry (CFI) chaired by Dr. B.C.Y. Freezailah (Malaysia), Vice-Chairperson of the Council assisted by Mr. Jorge Malleux (Peru), Chairperson of the CRF. This Joint Session considered agenda items 4, 6, 8 of CRF as contained in document CRF(XLVIII)/1 Rev.1. The Joint Session of the Committees was also convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Shingi Koto (Japan), Chairperson of CEM, to consider agenda item 6 of CRF. The subsequent meetings of the CRF were chaired by Mr. Jorge Malleux (Peru), assisted by Mr. Taivo Denks (Estonia), Vice-Chairperson of the CRF. The list of participants is presented in document ITTC(L)/Info.2.

Item 2 - Adoption of Agenda and Organization of Work

The agenda for the CRF as contained in document CRF(XLVIII)/1 Rev.1 was duly adopted. To ensure all agenda items are covered within the limited time allocated to the Committee, the Chairperson of the CRF proposed to organize the Session in the following order: item 5, item 9, item 10, item 11, item 12, item 13, item 14, item 15 and item 16.

Item 3 - Admission of Observers

The Committees admitted the observers listed in document ITTC(L)/Info.3 Rev.1 as approved by the Council.

Item 4 - Report of the Expert Panel for Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals

The Committees noted the presentation made by Mr. Mario Rafael Rodriguez Palma (Guatemala), Chairperson of the Expert Panel for Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals at its Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth meetings held on 3-7 February 2014 and on 4-8 August 2014 in Yokohama, Japan as contained in documents ITTC/EP-47 and ITTC/EP-48, respectively.

Item 5 – New Projects and Pre-Projects

The Committee noted the projects and pre-projects that were approved under the time-bound electronic no objection procedures to accept Expert Panel ratings and circulated to member countries pursuant to Decision 6(XLIII), as contained in document ITTC/EP-47, following the recommendations of the Expert Panel at its Forty-seventh as follows:

Forty-seventh Expert Panel

Category 1:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F)	Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana	Ghana
PD 690/13 Rev.3 (F)	Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Sustainable Rural Development in the Peruvian Amazon Region	Peru
PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F)	Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra	Indonesia
PD 713/13 Rev. 2 (F)	Operationalising the Policy on Sustainable Management of Sandalwood Resource Through Improved Livelihood and Increased Participation of Local Communities	Indonesia
PD 717/13 Rev.2 (F)	Enrichment of Young Forest Plantations with Selected NTFPs for Livelihood Improvement and Support of Forest Fringe Communities in Atwima Mponua District of Ghana, in order to Secure and Protect the Resources on a Sustainable Forest Management Basis	Ghana

PD 721/13 Rev.2 (F)	Building a Participatory and Inclusive Sustainable Forest Management Process for the Reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Ixil Forest Areas of the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala	Guatemala
PD 725/13 Rev.2 (F)	Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Land in the Ahua Forest Reserve by the Women Members of Association Malebi in Compensation for the Forest Resources Removed to Meet the Need for Fuel Wood (Charcoal and Fire Wood)	Côte d'Ivoire
PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F)	Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (<i>Dalbergia</i> spp)	Indonesia
PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F)	Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (<i>Diospyros celebica</i> Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi	Indonesia
PD 742/14 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	Peru
PD 747/14 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening Community Forest Management Through the Implementation of Forest Training and Extension in Guatemala	Guatemala
PPD 169/13 Rev.2 (F)	Identification of a Project for the Reforestation and Management of the Large Ndjock-Lipan Forest Complex in the Bondjock, Departement of Nyong-and-Kélé, Central Cameroon	Cameroon
PPD 170/13 Rev.2 (F)	Identification of a Project in Support of Natural Regeneration and the Establishment of Forest Plantations in the Mbam-and-Kim Department	Cameroon
PPD 177/14 Rev.1 (F)	Inventory of Mangrove Ecosystem and Development of a Management Plan for Gabon	Gabon

Category 4:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 734/14 (F)	Restoring Timber Resources with Indigenous Tree Species in Degraded Cocoa Agro-Ecosystems in the High Forest Zone of Ghana	Ghana

The Committee also noted the following projects and pre-projects which were approved under the time-bound electronic no objection procedure to accept Expert Panel ratings pursuant to ITTC Decision 6(XLIII), as contained in Document ITTC/EP-48, following the recommendations of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals at its Forty-eighth Meeting held in Yokohama, Japan on 4-8 August 2014.

Forty-eighth Expert Panel

Category 1:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 733/14 Rev.2 (F)	Promoting Forest Restoration through Multiple-Use of Degraded Forest Lands within Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve in Ghana	Ghana
PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F)	Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra	Indonesia
PD 740/14 Rev.2 (F)	Sustainable Forest Management Through REDD+ Mechanisms in Kampong Thom Province	Cambodia
PD 741/14 Rev.2 (F)	Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru	Peru
PD 752/14 Rev.1 (F)	Restoring Mangrove Forest Landscapes: An Opportunity for Social Development at the Alvarado Lagoon System (ALS) Ramsar Site, Veracruz, Mexico	Mexico
PD 764/14 Rev.1 (F)	Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilots Areas of PNG	PNG

PPD 180/14 Rev.1 (F)	Pre-Project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Côte d'Ivoire	Cote d'Ivoire
PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F)	Feasibility Study on the Payment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Forests in Benin	Benin

Category 4:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 616/11 Rev.2 (F)	Strategic Planning and Capacity building for Sustainable Community Based Natural Resource Management in Madang Province	PNG
PD 685/13 Rev.2 (F)	Community Participation in Mangrove and Forest Conservation at Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site, Ghana	Ghana
PD 706/13 Rev.2 (F)	Contribution to the Implementation of a Participatory REDD+ Mechanism in the Mangrove Forests of Cameroon	Cameroon
PD 753/14 (F)	Participatory Forest Rehabilitation in Cremas around the Bia Conservation Area	Ghana
PD 755/14 (F)	Project for the Participatory Implementation of the Mangrove Master Plan in the Wouri Estuary, Cameroon	Cameroon
PD 760/14 (F)	Development of an Alternative Strategy for Sustainable Management of Education and Training Forests Involving Stakeholders to Support Forestry Human Resource Development	Indonesia

Item 6 – ITTO Annual Market Discussion -2014

The Committees noted the summary of the ITTO Annual Market Discussion – 2014, held in the Joint Session of the Committees on 5 November 2014, as contained in Appendix A of document CEM-CFI(XLVIII)/6. The theme of the Market Discussion was “Domestic and Emerging International Markets – A Changing Market Landscape”. Mr. Shingi Koto, Chairperson of CEM, chaired the meeting and Mr. Barney Chan (TAG Coordinator) served as the moderator of the Market Discussion.

The following feature presentations were made during the Market Discussion:

Mr. Isac Zugman Vice President, ABIMCI Chairman, Lavrasul SA	Evolution of the Brazilian Timber Sector – High Value Exports and Imports
Mr. Jirawat Tangkijngamwong Chairman, Thai Timber Association Director, Deesawat Industries Co., Ltd./ Deesawat Design Co., Ltd.	Thailand, Opportunities for Timber Exporters
Mr. Roy Southey Chairman, The Wood Foundation South Africa Executive Director, Sawmilling Southys South Africa	South Africa – the Emerging Market Opportunity, What We Have and What We Need
Ms. Cindy Squires, Esq. Executive Director Intl. Wood Products Association	Global Timber Forum Update and How Can We Go About Creating New Markets for Old Products – a Carrot vs Stick Approach
Mr. Enzo Barattini Retired Deputy Head, European Commission	EU Experience with Working with the Private Sector – Lessons for ITTO and the Trade Advisory Group
Mr. Gordon Gresham Marketing Advisor	25 Years of Observing ITTO

The Committees further noted the statement of the Trade Advisory Group (TAG) presented during the Market Discussion as contained in Appendix B of document CEM-CFI(XLVIII)/6.

Item 7 - Report on Completed Projects and Pre-projects

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completed projects and pre-projects are described in document CRF(XLVIII)/2, "Report on Completed Projects and Pre-projects in the Field of Reforestation and Forest Management".

The Committee then proceeded to review the following completed projects:

7.1 Completed Projects

1) PD 197/03 Rev.2 (F) Support for the Implementation of a Sustainable Forest Development Master Plan in Eco-Floristic Area IV, Togo (Togo)

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to support the implementation of a sustainable forest development master plan in the Eco-Floristic Area IV, in Togo. The project's lessons and results had been a good basis for a better understanding, by local communities, of the critical issue regarding land tenure, which was the key reason of the slow involvement of local communities in the project implementation.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completion report, consultant's technical reports, workshop reports and final financial audit report had been delivered by the implementing agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

2) PD 372/05 Rev.1 (F) Contribution to Forest Rehabilitation in Thailand's Areas Affected by Tsunami Disaster (Thailand)

The delegation of Thailand made a presentation on the main outcomes of the project. He highlighted the project achievements in developing a community-based coastal resource management system to enhance the contribution of forests to sustainable livelihoods and ecological security (CBM-SLES) in the 2004 Tsunami natural disaster affected areas in southern Thailand. He also outlined bamboo use in the Tsunami affected areas in order to meet the medium and long-term needs in rural house construction. He further informed the Committee that key technical reports resulting from the implementation of the project have been posted on the Executing Agency's website for wider dissemination. He thanked ITTO and the donors for their support to the implementation of the project.

The delegation of Switzerland commended the Executing Agency for the successful implementation of the project with the effective engagement of diversified social groups as well as many interesting results even beyond the project document. He recommended that an ex-post evaluation be carried to assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of the project.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completion report, technical reports and satisfactory final financial audit report had been delivered by the Executing Agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

3) PD 376/05 Rev.2 (F) To Develop and Promote a Monitoring Information System to Support the Sustainable Development of Tree Resources Outside Forest at the Sub-District Level in Thailand (Thailand)

The delegation of Thailand made a presentation on the main outcomes of the project. The Committee noted that the project's three outputs had been achieved by significantly contributing to the development of standard inventory and monitoring procedures for Tree Resources Outside Forest (TROF) towards their sustainable management in Thailand. Two demonstration sites - one in Ubon Ratchatani, northeastern province and the other in Chumpon, southern province - for TROF assessment and monitoring had been established to build awareness and research for continued policy development for TROF. Key technical reports resulting from the implementation of the project have been posted on the Executing Agency for wider dissemination. He thanked ITTO and the donors for their support to the implementation of the project.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completion report, technical reports and satisfactory final financial audit report had been delivered by the Executing Agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

4) PD 501/08 Rev.1 (F) Promoting Household Reforestation in Tropical Zone of Southwestern China through Development and Extension of Household-Oriented Techniques (China)

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had led to the promotion of appropriate household-oriented reforestation techniques through a close cooperation between the Yunnan Academy of Forestry and selected local households in the tropical area of Yunnan Province. The project implementation had been an opportunity for arrangements made with key stakeholders, which contributed to the smooth implementation of the project, as the responsibilities and rights of each stakeholder were clearly defined prior to the involvement in the project implementation.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completion report, technical reports and final financial audit report had been delivered by the implementing agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

7.2 Completed Pre-projects

1) PPD 165/12 Rev.1 (F) Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin

The Committee took note that implementation of this pre-project had contributed to evaluate the potential of Sacred Forests located in the Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018, in order to formulate a project aiming to support their rehabilitation and sustainable management.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completion report, consultant technical reports and final financial audit report had been delivered by the implementing agency in accordance with the Pre-project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the pre-project as completed.

Item 8 - Ex-post Evaluation

(A) Ex-post Evaluation Reports

The Committees recalled that the following projects by thematic groups were selected for ex-post evaluation by CRF at its Forty-seventh Session:

1) Thematic Group Evaluation: Biodiversity Conservation / Conservation Areas

PD 66/01 Rev.1 (F) Establishment of the Mengine-Minkebe Transboundary Gorilla Sanctuary (MMGS) at the Cameroon-Gabon Border (Cameroon)

The Committees took note of the presentation of the synthesis of the evaluations as contained in document CRF(XLVIII)/4 Rev.1, for the completed project PD 66/01 Rev.1 (F), by the Team Leader of the evaluation team, Dr. Marc Dourojeanni (Peru). The synthesis was prepared with the information and data analyzed in the full report prepared by the Team Leader and the national consultant, Mr. Etienne Nkomo.

He informed the Committees that the project was not considered as successful, but not as a failure, because most its outputs were not fully achieved during its implementation due to, among others, the delay in formalizing the establishment of the Mengine Gorilla Sanctuary. He reminded the Committees of the importance of establishing the Mengine Gorilla Sanctuary as a contribution of this project to the conservation biodiversity in this particular part of the Congo Basin, as the situation of biodiversity would be even worse without the current main project outcomes. He highlighted the major lessons learned and recommendations for similar future projects as well as the improvements in the management of this project:

- Projects that include financing in protected areas management must be conditioned to their previous legal establishment ("gazetting process").
- A different case is when the project is exclusively oriented to assist in the preparation of the documentation (scientific justification research, delimitation studies, public consultation, draft decree or resolution, etc.) necessary for the country to establish a new protected area.

- Transboundary or bi-nationally managed protected areas, as well as international ecological corridors, are unquestionably necessary but their possibility of success is limited and very difficult to achieve.
- Careful attention must be given to the implications of logistics in remote or isolated areas.
- The assessment of the socio-economic and cultural reality of the region must be well known and taken into consideration in project design.
- Activities related to economic incentive programs for communities should form part of project design.
- Mid-term evaluations are always very useful tools.
- Flexibility on Project deliverables should be allowed especially when currency fluctuations outside of the Project control significantly increase costs.
- Economic sustainability for protected areas is almost a dream, but it is possible to be partially achieved.
- Political willingness or support and country's bureaucracy must be carefully evaluated and prudently considered in project design.

Following the presentation, the Delegation of Cameroon expressed its gratitude to the governments of Japan, Switzerland and USA for financing this project. The Delegation of Cameroon commended the evaluation team for the findings, lessons learned and recommendations provided in its report and ensured the Committees that these are useful elements to be capitalized for the preparation of a second phase of this project.

The Delegation of Switzerland expressed its appreciation for the response to its request in previous sessions for the inclusion of management responses to the ex-post evaluation full report and executive summary. It was noted that the management response was missing in the reports distributed in the Committee. Therefore, it was requested to the Secretariat to provide the reason why the management response of the Executing Agency to this ITTO ex-post evaluation was not annexed to both the full report and executive summary. The Secretariat responded that there was a mistake in compiling the report although the management response was provided. The Delegation of Switzerland has appreciated receiving the right version of both documents with the management response added as annex.

The Committees commended the consultant for his report and presentation.

2) Thematic Group Evaluation: Community Participation in SFM

PD 32/99 Rev.2 (F)	Productive Forest Management for the Rural Reserve Area of Guaviare (Colombia)
PD 405/06 Rev.3 (F)	Extending the Area under Sustainable Forest Management in the Forest Lands of the Embera-Wounaan Comarca, Darien, Panama
PD 482/07 Rev.2 (F)	Sustainable Forest Production and Conservation with Community Participation in the Chepigana Forest Reserve of Darien, Panama

The Committees were informed that the results of the ex-post evaluation of the thematic Group Evaluation on Community Participation in SFM will be reported at the 49th CRF Session in 2015.

3) Thematic Group Evaluation: Plantation Establishment

PD 396/06 Rev.2 (F)	Strategy for Developing Plantation Forest: A Conflict Resolution Approach in Indonesia
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The consultant, Dr. Zhuang Zuofeng (China) made a presentation on his ex-post evaluation report on this project as contained in document CRF(XLVIII)/5. He indicated that the project had basically been successfully implemented with the two specific objectives achieved through developing, adopting and demonstrating technical guidelines on "Strategy, Legal Framework and Institutional Arrangement of Collaborative Plantation Forest Management" and "Practical Mechanism of Conflict Resolution on Plantation Forest Development in Indonesia" in Jambi and South Kalimantan provinces. The project had also contributed to improving the capacity of farmer groups through various trainings and MOUs on collaborative plantation forest management between farmer groups and plantation forest concessionaires working for the activities in the demonstration site.

He also proposed a number of recommendations including: key stakeholders and partners should be identified from the very beginning and their roles and responsibilities should be clarified at different phases in the project management cycle; effective collaboration mechanisms should be developed to motivate and encourage the local forest authorities and professionals to actively join the project implementation and follow-up actions; and capacity building should be continuously provided for the villagers under the government capacity building programs. Technical supports from local forest authorities still needed to help farmer groups to develop forest management plans for the collaborative plantation forests.

The delegation of Indonesia commended the consultant for his report and presentation. He also thanked the donors for their support and informed the Committees about the on-going conflict resolution related activities in plantation forests in Indonesia.

4) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Fire

PD 284/04 Rev.2 (F) Fire-Management and Post-Fire Restoration with Local Community
Collaboration in Ghana

The Committees were informed that the results of the ex-post evaluation of the thematic Group Evaluation on Forest Fire will be reported at the 49th CRF Session in 2015.

5) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Governance

PD 493/07 Rev.1(F) Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in
Cambodia

The Committees were informed that the results of the ex-post evaluation of the thematic Group Evaluation on Forest Governance will be reported at the 49th CRF Session in 2015.

Item 9 - Policy Work

(i) Promote the understanding of the contribution of environmental services to the sustainable Management of tropical forests [Activity 12, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2013-2014 / Decision 2(XLVII)] [PP-A/48-275]

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the International Forum on Payments for Environmental Services of Tropical Forests (PES Forum) was successfully organized in San José, Costa Rica on 7-10 April 2014 in close partnership with FAO and Costa Rica's National Fund for Forest Finance (FONAFIFO). The PES Forum was attended by more than 150 people from 60 countries from governments, regional and international development partners, civil-society organizations and the private sector. The Committee was informed that the outcomes of the PES Forum were presented by Dr. Eva Muller (FAO) at the ITTO/FAO joint side event entitled "Promoting PES in the Tropics: The Way Forward" which was held on 3 November 2014 on the occasion of the Fiftieth Session of the ITTC. Highlights of her presentation included the following policy recommendations for scaling up PES schemes: raise awareness of the importance of environmental services; develop policies to increase market demand for the environmental services provided by tropical forests; ensure that PES schemes protect the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and vulnerable groups; and strengthen governance and institutions to enable the effective implementation of PES schemes.

The Committee was further informed by the Secretariat of the following: ITTO Newsletter – *Tropical Forest Update* (Volume 23 Number 1 2014) featured all presentations and discussions made during the PES Forum; and a policy brief outlining the outcomes of the PES Forum had been published in English, and posted on ITTO and FAO websites and circulated at the relevant international events, including the FAO/ITTO joint side event on PES during FAO's Twenty-second Session of the Committee on Forestry (23-27 June 2014, Rome, Italy) and the CBD COP12 (6-17 October 2014, PyeongChang, Korea). Moreover, the outcomes of the PES Forum would be presented at the ITTO/FAO joint side event on PES at the IUCN World Parks Congress 2014 (12-19 November, Sydney, Australia). The Committee noted that follow-up activities had been included in the draft ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016.

The Secretariat thanked the donor countries, namely the governments of Switzerland and USA, as well as FAO Forestry Department, GIZ, APFNet and AFoCo for their support. The delegation of EU

thanked ITTO for jointly organizing the PES Forum with FAO and encouraged further cooperation with FAO and other partners, including the World Bank, in promoting PES as well as enhancement of closer partnership between investors and beneficiaries of PES. He also encouraged the continued discussion of this subject in order to share experiences and lessons learned from the implementation of PES schemes.

(ii) Promote the publication, dissemination and application of the revised ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Activity 35, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2013-2014 / Decision 2(XLVII); Decision 4(XLIX)] [PP-A/48-284]

The Committee was briefed by the Secretariat on the implementation of ITTC Decision 4(XLIX) on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (ITTO Voluntary Guidelines) which was adopted by the Council at its Forty-ninth Session in Gabon in November 2013, as follows: the draft ITTO Voluntary Guidelines received comments from the governments of Malaysia, Mexico and Peru by 30 April 2014; the final draft of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines was prepared in May 2014, taking into account the comments received from the three members; the final draft was posted on the ITTO website during the period from 1 June to 31 July 2014 under the electronic no-objection procedure; and based on such a procedure, the final draft ITTO Voluntary Guidelines was adopted for updating and replacing the original ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests which was published in 1990.

Since the development of ITTO Voluntary Guidelines has been benefited from the inputs of many people since 2010, the Secretariat thanked the leading consultant, Dr. Jürgen Blaser (Switzerland) for his great contributions and other consultants including Dr. Cesar Sabogal (FAO), Dr. James Gasana (Switzerland), Mr. Ricardo M. Umali (the Philippines) and Dato' Shaharuddin Mohamad Ismail (Malaysia). The Secretariat also thanked the donors, namely the governments of Switzerland, Japan, USA, Norway and France for their support.

The Committee noted that an information brochure summarizing the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines was published in English and editing work on the adopted ITTO Voluntary Guidelines is underway. The Committee also noted that the full implementation of Decision 4(XLIX) requires: (i) publication of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines in the three official languages of ITTO; and (ii) organization of three regional capacity building workshops to promote the understanding of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines and encourage country-level initiatives. The Committee was informed that these two activities had been included in the draft ITTO Biennial Work Programmes 2015-2016 (BWP 2015-2016) as its Activity 4 entitled "Publication, dissemination and application of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests".

The Committee further noted that in line with the adopted ITTO Voluntary Guidelines, there is the need to revise the 2005 version of the ITTO Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests (ITTO C&I) which include a simplified set of indicators and a shortened format for reporting. The Secretariat informed the Committee that a small expert group would be convened in early 2015 to review the 2005 version of the ITTO C&I by utilizing the secured commitment under Activity 10b of the BWP 2013-2014. This expert group meeting will closely look into the guidance specified in the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines, recommendations from national ITTO C&I workshops and ITTO C&I field projects, and developments in international forestry. The Committee noted that the Secretariat is planning to prepare a draft revised ITTO C&I for consideration of members and for eventual approval through a no-objection procedure in due course by incorporating members' comments so that the revised reporting ITTO C&I format can be used for the 2016 SFM Tropics report.

The delegation of EU welcomed the adoption of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines as an important tool for policy makers in promoting SFM practices in the tropics and encouraged the wider application of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines as an international reference document for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests. The delegation of Malaysia noted the importance of conducting the three regional capacity building workshops under the BWP 2015-2016 and expressed his willingness to cooperate. He sought clarification on the reflection of Malaysian comments in the preparation of the final draft of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines. The Secretariat replied that the most of the comments made by Malaysia had been incorporated into the final draft and pointed out that it contains a table summarizing long-term research and development needs to support SFM in natural tropical forests as an annex attached to the adopted ITTO Voluntary Guidelines.

On the proposed revision of the 2005 ITTO C&I, the delegation of Cameroon expressed his concern over the possible overlap with FAO's on-going work on evaluation of C&I and their use in policy and practice in the region. The Secretariat explained that based on ITTO's long-term cooperation with FAO on promotion of C&I to strengthen SFM, the ITTO C&I revision process will benefit from FAO's on-going work.

The delegation of PNG pointed out the importance of including the issues of land tenure and partnership building in the organization of the three regional capacity building workshops with participation of NGOs and the private sector. The delegations of Congo and Cameroon emphasized the importance of adopting national C&I to support national timber certification schemes and sought information on ITTO technical assistance in adopting national C&I. The Secretariat responded that members may submit a proposal to develop and implement national C&I in line with the ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators for the Sustainable Management of African Natural Tropical Forests (ATO/ITTO PCI). In addition, the Secretariat added that the on-going ITTO project [PD 124/01 Rev.4 (M) Phase III Stage 2 "Promotion of Sustainable Management of African Forests (ITTO/ATO)"] has included capacity building activities at national levels in the region for the development of national PCIs with the application of the ATO/ITTO PCIs.

(iii) Promote the implementation of guidelines for the management of secondary tropical forests, the restoration of degraded tropical forests and the rehabilitation of degraded forest land [Activity 14(a) and (b), ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2013-2014 / Decision 2(XLVII)] [PP-A/48-276 and PP-A/49-288]

The Secretariat reported on the progress made in the implementation of this Activity and the Committee took note that:

- As the implementation of the first step of this Activity, reports of the following national case studies have been finalized for all three tropical timber producing regions, including photos of the sites covered by these case studies:
 - Ghana (Africa) by a multidisciplinary team (Dr. Dominic BLAY as Team Leader, Dr. Beatrice OBIRI and Dr. Mark APPIAH as members) which was already involved in the implementation of a previous ITTO FLR-related Activity in Ghana;
 - Indonesia (Asia-Pacific) by Dr. Hiras SIDABUTAR; and
 - Mexico (Latin America) by Dr. David DOUTERLUNGNE (within the framework of cooperation between BirdLife International and ITTO).
- The second step of the implementation of this Activity has been planned as follows:
 - A draft memorandum of understanding (MoU) was sent for review to IUCN, which is the leading institution of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), in July 2014. The MoU will formalize the collaboration between the ITTO Secretariat and the IUCN-GPFLR Coordination Unit regarding the establishment of a network of learning sites for forest landscape restoration in correlation with the implementation of the principles and recommended actions of the ITTO guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests; and
 - The compilation of the findings, results and lessons, which have been documented in the three national case study reports, will be carried out by an international consultant to be selected by IUCN, in accordance with the provisions of the abovementioned MOU. The report of the international consultant will provide basic information and data for the preparation of outreach and communication materials (leaflet/brochure and poster) to be shared through the network of GPFLR members on learning sites for forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation. It is planned that the international consultant participates in the 2nd Global Landscape Forum to be held during the 20th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in Lima, Peru, on 6-7 December 2014, under a joint IUCN-ITTO side event, for information sharing on learning sites of good practices for forest landscape restoration and rehabilitation.
- As there is no reaction from IUCN-GPFLR Coordination Unit since July 2014, the Committee noted that the Secretariat may need to contact other relevant organizations/institutions for the implementation of this second step in 2015.

(iv) ITTO contribution to United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and support to regional fire networks [Activity 45, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2013-2014 / Decision 2(XLVII)] [PP-A/48-277]

The Secretariat reported on the implementation of this activity, in particular on the outcomes of the South Korea Conference Organizing Committee (SKCOC) and the International Liaison Committee (ILC) meeting for the organization of the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference which was held at the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) in Freiburg (Germany) in June 2014, to discuss the roadmap 2014-2015. Members and associates of the Global Wildland Fire Network, represented by the UNISDR Wildland Fire Advisory Group (WFAG), members of the International Fire Aviation Working Group (IFAWG) and representatives of the Republic of Korea of the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference (2015), also participated at this meeting.

On the first and second day, the regional networks and international organizations reported on the status, projects or strategic plans for enhancing transboundary cooperation in fire management. On the third day, members of the SKCOC and regional networks presented their views and approaches in preparation of the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference. Suggestions from regions and international organizations for themes to be addressed by the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference were also discussed. On the fourth day a Round Table of Regional Wildland Fire Networks and Centers discussed transboundary fire issues and the roadmap towards a successful 6th International Wildland Fire Conference. The conference is to be held at the Alpensia Resort, in Pyeongchang-gun County, Gangwon-do Province, Republic of Korea in October 2015. A discussion followed at which the members of the ILC first commended the SKCOC in its achievements to date and each further contributed with their views and approaches in the preparation of the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference.

The Secretariat further informed the Committee that, as the financial support for the Global Wildland Fire Network appeared to be waning, steps are being taken by the GFMC to establish the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM) under the auspices of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

The Committee also noted that the WFAG/GWFN further reiterated its wish for ITTO to continue providing support and further collaborate both technically and financially in its endeavors and, that as such, ITTO continued to seek support for the regional networks in the tropics of Africa, America and Asia and was pursuing potential partnerships to develop a tropical forest fire prevention and management programme with a view towards, among others, updating its forest fire guidelines with a view towards incorporating elements related to REDD, climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation. Moreover, in order to achieve the aforementioned, the Secretariat has included an Activity in the BWP 2015-2016 under section 14 in order to continue contributing to national and international efforts in the prevention and management of fire in tropical timber producing countries with a view towards sourcing fresh funds to support the participation of producer member-countries and ITTO projects at this upcoming 6th International Wildland Fire Conference.

Last but not least, the Chairperson urged ITTO member countries to continue their support for this very important Activity and further provide the needed additional funding.

(v) Strengthening cooperation and collaboration between ITTO and ACTO countries on C&I and related topics, including the outcomes of a regional workshop to harmonize ITTO C&I and the Tarapoto Process [Activity 47, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2008-2009 / Decision 2(XLIII)] [PP-A/34-131B]

The Secretariat informed and the Committee took note on the developments to date as regards the harmonization of the Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Tropical Natural Forests (ITTO C&I) and the Tarapoto Process, as follows:

- Under Activity PPA-34-131B, support has been provided to Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) to elaborate a Harmonized ITTO-ACTO C&I for SFM. In this light, Government Representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Surinam and Peru, among others, are participating in the Harmonization of Criteria and Indicators of Tarapoto and ITTO.

- The harmonization process seeks to integrate both sets of C&I in an attempt to generate information that can guide public managers on the effectiveness and efficiency of measures aimed at forest management. At the regional level, the generation of reports is recognized as a useful practice for the dialogue around sustainable development, to highlight the challenges and opportunities for management under a regional vision and to identify areas of cooperation which should be strengthened.
- The National Delegates have to date participated at several workshops to elaborate on the Harmonization of the ACTO/ITTO C&I and the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO has submitted to ITTO and its member countries the draft final set of harmonized ACTO/ITTO C&I for last comments and adjustments before seeking the final endorsement from ACTO Member countries and ITTC and publicly launching the initiative. The aforementioned document, entitled 48RFM-4 "ACTO/ITTO Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest" is available upon request from the Secretariat.

(vi) ITTO collaboration with the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)

The Secretariat reported and the Committee took note regarding ITTO's collaboration with IPSI, as follows:

- In 2010, the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan jointly initiated the Satoyama Initiative, with the support from both CBD and GEF. This international effort promotes activities consistent in principle with sustainable development, including SFM. Its core vision is to realize societies in harmony with nature, that is, built on positive human-nature relationships. The International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative was officially launched at the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP10) held in October 2010. ITTO participated at that launch and further gave a presentation in support of the Satoyama Initiative and ITTO's potential areas of collaboration with it, particularly as an international organization specialized in tropical forests. ITTO became a partner of IPSI, and has been very active ever since. Moreover, ITTO is currently a member of IPSI's Steering Committee and has been regularly participating at its meetings.
- Most recently, ITTO has participated at the First Satoyama Regional Workshop focused on "Revitalizing Production Landscapes: Travel and Dialogue for People and Biodiversity" and the Seventh International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) Steering Committee Meeting, both held in Florence, Italy in May 2014. ITTO further attended the Eighth Meeting of the IPSI Steering Committee (SC-8) and the Fifth IPSI Global Conference (IPSI-5), which were held in the Alpensia Convention Center in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea on 3-5 October 2014, back-to-back with the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12). At this conference, ITTO gave a presentation highlighting the achievements of its collaborative activity with IPSI in Benin with NGO CESAREN. ITTO further explored other potential collaborative activities in India, Ghana and Guatemala, and continues to actively strengthen its synergies with IPSI.

(vii) Organization of a Regional Workshop on SFM and Forest Education in Latin America [Decision 6(XLIX)] [PP-A/49-293]

The Chairperson of the Committee, as a member of the Peruvian delegation, reported and the Committee took note regarding the joint collaboration of ITTO and FAO in the organization of a Regional Workshop on SFM and Forest Education in Latin America to be held on the premises of the National Agrarian University La Molina on 8-10 December 2015, with a view towards:

- Assessing the current situation as regards forestry education, which was initiated in the region during the sixties;
- Discussing a new profile for the forestry professionals in view of the global agendas on forestry and environmental issues, and the new skill requirements demanded by the public, private and civil society sectors; and
- Proposing a roadmap for enhancing forestry education during the next 50 years both at technical and university levels.

The workshop expects to draw some 60 participants from 15 countries in the region.

Item 10 – Biennial Work Programme of the Committees for 2015-2016

The Committee noted the proposed activities for CRF in the Draft ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 (BWP 2015-2016) as contained in document ITTC(L)/10 and agreed that these activities be submitted for the consideration of the Council at its current Session. Furthermore the Committee considered the activity to conduct a survey to assess the use of ITTO guidelines proposed by the delegation of USA. With the support of the delegation of Cameroon, the Committee recommended that this activity, as contained in Appendix, be submitted for the consideration of the Council at its current session for the inclusion in the BWP 2015-2016.

Item 11 - Review of Implementation of Approved Projects and Pre-projects

11.1 Projects

The Committee took note of a status report [document CRF(XLVIII)/3] prepared by the Secretariat on projects in the field of Reforestation and Forest Management, that have been approved by the Council, and which are either: A) in the process of implementation (39), B) awaiting the signing of an Agreement (5), C) projects awaiting financing (29), or D) falling under the sunset provision since the last Session (5).

The Committee noted the reports on the progress of these projects in the above document. In view of the desire of the Committee to further streamline its work in accordance with Council Decision 4(XXV) Annex A, Section VI.1, the Committee requested the Secretariat and Members to limit the reporting and discussion during the Session to those projects that are:

- having implementation problems;
- requiring additional funds;
- requesting extension in time of more than 6 months beyond the original duration of the project; or
- requesting essential major modifications of the work plan and budget.

The Secretariat informed that projects that have been declared as completed in previous Committee Sessions but are still pending final financial audit reports were re-inserted in this session as projects under implementation. The Secretariat also informed that, as per ITTO regulations, Executing Agencies pending submission of financial audit reports do not qualify for further disbursements in any other ITTO projects they may be implementing. The Committee urged all Executing Agencies in this situation to submit financial audit reports as soon as possible in order to comply with the regulations.

The Committee then proceeded to discuss the issues associated with a number of projects. Details of these discussions are as follows:

(A) Projects under implementation

1) PD 20/99 Rev.2 (F) Establishment and Management of Production-Protection Community Forests in Lower and Middle Atrato, Department of Choco, Colombia (Colombia)

The Committee recalled that at its previous session it observed that the implementation of this project had been progressing at a slow pace, that the Executing Agency CODECHOCO continued to be haphazard in submitting its progress reports and other documents in paper format, that the last ITTO 6-monthly disbursement was made in June 2009 and another three disbursements for a total of US\$240,000 are still pending to date, and that all these are required to fully achieve the project's objectives and report the project as satisfactory. In addition, a satisfactory annual financial audit report for year 2010 was also still pending, and no further disbursements have been made based on the lack of submission of this financial audit report. While the project was slated to have been completed in December 2010, the Committee further observed that prior to its last session the Executing Agency had submitted, however very late, a progress report, an YPO to December 2013 and a request for an extension in time until December 2013 in order to satisfactorily complete the project. However, these documents were incomplete, lacked proper justification for the extension in time and did not include the 2010 financial audit report.

The Committee further noted that at its previous session it had urged the Executing Agency to immediately submit a satisfactory financial audit report for 2010, apply for a reasonable extension in time, without additional funds, for an approximate period of 18 months (as three 6-monthly ITTO disbursements totaling US\$240,000 are still pending), and further submit to the Secretariat a formal request with a justification for the aforementioned extension in time, together with any required budget amendments and an updated detailed Work Plan and Yearly Plan of Operations, in order to successfully complete the project's activities, and that since the Forty-seventh Session of the Committee and in accordance with the ITTO Regional Officer's report, the Executing Agency had submitted revisions of the aforementioned progress report, YPO and a request for an extension in time, but upon review by ITTO Regional Officer these were considered to continue being unsatisfactory, and were sent back once again for the required adjustments. To date these have not been resubmitted, apparently due to administrative changes within CODECHOCO that affected the coordination of the project.

In this light, the Committee once again urged the Executing Agency to immediately submit all previously mentioned documents and initiate the actions required to reactivate the project, or otherwise request it be terminated.

2) PD 62/99 Rev.3 (F) Reforestation Pilot Project for the Recovery of Degraded Areas in the Medium Doce River Region, State of Minas Gerais, Brazil (Brazil)

The Committee recalled that at its previous session it had noted that the latest progress report received for this project only covered the implementation of its activities until March 2013. It further stated that all activities but one have been completed, but the description of these were lacking, and so were the technical reports, workshop aide memoirs and other means of verification, such as manuals, publications, maps, pamphlets, videos, etc. Moreover, it further observed that the project was slated to have been completed in March 2012 but had continued intermittently until March 2013, when it came to a halt, with no further progress reports or a request for an extension in time having been submitted to the Secretariat since then.

At that same session, the Committee further observed that the 2010-2011 financial audit report had been the most recent one submitted to the Secretariat, and that this report stated that the expenditures were only executed up to December 31, 2010, not having incurred in any expenses during the year 2011. Also, the unspent amount of ITTO funds with the EA as at 31 December 2011 was reported as approximately US\$55,000. In addition, ITTO was also still withholding the originally programmed 8th and last disbursement for an additional US\$50,000. The Committee also took note that the Executing Agency, The State Forest Institute of Minas Gerais (IEF/MG), had unofficially requested the Secretariat to consider this project as completed, but had not submitted the required completion report, technical reports and other means of verification to the ITTO Secretariat.

Additionally, it also noted at that time that the final financial audit report was also pending, and taking into account the financial audit report for 2010-2011, there also was still approximately US\$50,000 unaccounted for that needed to be reimbursed to ITTO if the project was deemed as completed. In addition, the Executing Agency also needed to submit an official notification relinquishing the project's last disbursement from ITTO in the amount of US\$50,000, in order for the Secretariat to be able to reimburse all the remaining funds to the original donors, as per ITTO procedures.

Based on the aforementioned facts, the Committee further recalled that at its previous session in Libreville, Gabon last year, it had recommended an independent mid-term evaluation be carried out to assess what had been achieved, and further provide unanimous recommendations on the actions needed in order to either continue or close the project, in accordance with ITTO's rules of procedure.

The Committee took note that the independent mid-term evaluation took place in May 2014 in the project's area of influence and documented in both an executive summary [CRF(XLVIII)/6] and the full report (48RFM-4), which are available from the Secretariat. Overall, the Committee observed that the mid-evaluation's main recommendation was that the Executing Agency expedite the preparation and submission to the ITTO Secretariat of a proper Completion Report, a final financial audit report, an Official Notification relinquishing the ITTO last disbursement of US\$50,000, and finally, reimburse to ITTO the unspent amount of ITTO funds (approximately US\$55,000), as per ITTO rules of procedure.

The Committee further noted that the Executing Agency is currently following up on the mid-term evaluation's recommendations and seeing to it that the necessary ITTO procedures are complied with for the closure of this project in due time.

In this light, this project is expected to be reported as completed to the CRF at its next session in 2015.

3) PD 63/01 Rev.2 (F) Assessment and Management of Mangrove Forests in Egypt for Sustainable Utilization and Development (Egypt)

The Committee noted that this project was reported as completed at a previous CRF session and documented as such in CRF(XLIII)/2. It also noted that the implementing agency had already submitted the financial audit report for the period ended 31 December 2006 relating to the project implementation with all installments of ITTO funds, except the contingencies amounting to US\$10,000. This financial audit report was considered satisfactory by the Division of Operations.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the financial statement on US\$10,000 of contingency funds, used for the holding of a national workshop for the dissemination of project findings and results, in July 2009, had been delivered by the implementing agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

4) PD 346/05 Rev.2 (F) Conservation and Recovery of Degraded Land in Family Agriculture Units in the Eastern Brazilian Amazon (Brazil)

The Committee recalled that at its previous session in Libreville, Gabon last year, it had urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and periodically submit all pending documents following ITTO's guidelines and formats and within the established deadlines, such as the project progress reports, technical documents, and other documented means of verification, and the annual financial audit reports, and further regularize all project staff positions financed with ITTO funds via no-objection requests.

The Committee further noted that since the forty-seventh Session of the Committee, the Secretariat had not received any information on progress in project implementation of the project, nor any of the abovementioned documents. Several reminders sent by the Regional Officer requesting for information on follow up actions to the recommendations made by the committee have gone unanswered by EMBRAPA, albeit ITTO's Regional Officer's continued efforts in contacting with the Executing Agency and further assisting EMBRAPA in complying with ITTO's procedures and getting this project back on track.

In this light, the Committee once again urges the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and periodically submit all pending documents following ITTO's guidelines and formats and within the established deadlines.

5) PD 350/05 Rev.3 (F) Production Systems and Integrated Management of Shoot-borers for the Successful Establishment of Meliaceae Plantations in the Yucatan Peninsula and Veracruz, Mexico (Mexico)

The Committee took note that at the Project's last Steering Committee meeting held in February 2014 it was observed that all its outputs had already been achieved, and that only the editing, publishing and peer review of the scientific and technical documents was pending. It further observed the need of a final extension until December 2014, so as to allow the peer review of the scientific papers to be produced by the project.

As such, the Executing Agency further submitted to the Secretariat a formal request and a justification for the aforementioned extension in time. The Secretariat reviewed the corresponding document and considered it to be justified. In this light, the Committee endorsed the extension of the project until the end of December 2014, without additional funds, as per the written request and justification submitted by the Executing Agency. The project is expected to be reported as completed to the CRF at its next session in 2015.

6) PD 351/05 Rev.1 (F) Criteria and Indicators for the Evaluation of Tropical Forest Management Sustainability in Mexico (Southeastern Coastal Plains: Gulf of Mexico and Yucatan Peninsula) (Mexico)

The Committee took note that at the Project's last Steering Committee meeting held in February 2014 it was observed that most outputs had already been achieved, but that INIFAP wished to include an additional activity financed with new counterpart funds provided by UNDP so as to also train other communities in the application of the regionally-developed C&I, in particular at the Santa Catarina Ixtpeji community forests.

Moreover, the Project Steering Committee at that meeting further recommended, among others, that the EA and CONAFOR include the proposed additional output, funded with counterpart funds from UNDP, to provide further training in the application of the C&I developed for certain regions of Mexico, and further extend the project with budgetary modifications until December 2014.

As such, the Executing Agency further submitted a formal request and a justification for an extension in time until December 2014, together with the required budget amendments and an updated Yearly Plan of operations in order to successfully incorporate the new activity and successfully complete the project. The Secretariat reviewed the corresponding documents and considered these to be justified. In this light, the Committee endorsed the extension of the project until the end of December 2014, without additional funds, as per the written request and justification submitted by the Executing Agency. The project is expected to be reported as completed to the CRF at its next session in 2015.

7) PD 367/05 Rev.2 (F) Promotion of the Sustainable Management of Tropical Planted Forest in Congo's Tropical Forest Plantations (Republic of Congo)

The Committee noted that the implementing agency has already submitted the completion report, and it should be documented and reported as completed at the next Committee session, if the final financial audit report is submitted in due time. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to submit the final financial audit report at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2015.

8) PD 438/06 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Management for the Forest Production Area of the Northern and Northeastern Regions of the Department of Antioquia, Colombia (Colombia)

The Committee recalled that at its previous session it had already noted that the Executing Agency continued to be late in submitting its progress reports, technical documents, and other documented means of verification, and when submitted, these were incomplete and did not follow ITTO formats. As such, the Committee at that time urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and submit all the pending documents in time, such as the project completion report, technical documents, and other documented means of verification, and the final financial audit report, so as to report this project as completed at its next session.

Based on the latest communications between the EA and the ITTO Regional Officer, project activities were completed in June 2013 and a completion report, the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve Land-Use Plan and an article for the TFU have been submitted to the Secretariat. However, the Secretariat requested the aforementioned first two documents be resubmitted in a visually-attractive format adequate for posting on ITTO's website.

In this light, the Committee urged the aforementioned revised documents and the final financial audit report to be promptly submitted to the Secretariat, so as to be able to report this project as completed at the next session.

9) PD 441/07 Rev.2 (F) Institutional Strengthening of ANAM for Integrated Fire Management in the Forests of Panama (Panama)

The Committee took note that the EA requested an extension in time until September 2015 in order to successfully complete the project's activities, and that it is currently preparing the supporting documents to justify this request and expects the aforementioned justification to be submitted to the Secretariat shortly after discussing the matter at the next Project Steering Committee meeting to be held at the end of November 2014.

10) PD 454/07 Rev.3 (F) Community Forest Management: A Sustainable Alternative for the Maues State Forest, Amazonas State (Brazil)

The Committee took note that since the Forty-seventh session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and second YPO submitted in June 2014, progress in project implementation continued to be sluggish, even though the second disbursement was released this last July.

The Committee also recalled that at its previous session it had already noted that the Executing Agency had been late in submitting its progress reports and other documentation, and when submitted these were incomplete and did not follow ITTO formats, and that it was also hiring project staff without requesting no-objections from the Secretariat as per ITTO's rules of procedure, and that it had urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and periodically submit all pending documents following ITTO's guidelines and formats and within the established deadlines, such as the project progress reports, technical documents and other documented means of verification, and the annual financial audit reports, and further regularize all project staff positions financed with ITTO funds via no-objection requests.

The Committee further observed that during this last year several communications sent by ITTO's Regional Officer requesting for information on follow up actions have gone unanswered by IPDA, strongly suggesting that the Executing Agency appeared to have insufficient capability to properly manage and supervise the project operations, albeit ITTO's Regional Officer continuing efforts in assisting IPDA in complying with ITTO's procedures and getting this project back on track.

In this light, the Committee once again urges the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and periodically submit all pending documents following ITTO's guidelines and formats and within the established deadlines.

11) PD 470/07 Rev.1 (F) Development and Implementation of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Planted Forests and Community Forests (Thailand)

The Secretariat reported that the implementation of this project's activities has been progressing at a very slow pace in 2014 due to the change of the project coordinator. The delegation of Thailand informed the Committee that the engagement of a new coordinator will be finalized soon towards the successful implementation of the project in accordance with the project document. He also informed the Committee that the PSC meeting will be held in mid-December 2014 to review the efficient and effective implementation of the project.

12) PD 507/08 Rev.1 (F) Development of the National Reforestation Policy and Afforestation Strategy Consistent with Liberia 3C-Approach (Liberia)

The Committee took note of the findings of a special monitoring mission, recommended by the 47th Committee Session. It was carried by the Secretariat, from 25 June to 02 July 2014, for an in-depth technical and financial assessment of the project implementation, although the risk of Ebola virus outbreak. It also noted that for the reactivation of project activities, with the support of an international consultant, as soon as the Ebola virus related medical situation is considered as significantly improved in Liberia, the following actions have been recommended:

- The Executing Agency should submit, by 31 December 2014, a Yearly Plan of Operation (YPO), for the implementation of the project in 2015, with an appropriate budget based on the remaining ITTO funds not disbursed yet (three instalments and contingency of ITTO funds, for a total amount of US\$141,954); and
- The project implementation should be extended until end of December 2015, if an acceptable YPO for the extension period is submitted by 31 December 2014, in order to allow the Executing Agency to complete all project activities.

Therefore, the Committee requested the implementing agency to take the necessary arrangements for the completion of all planned project activities, as soon as the Ebola virus related medical situation is considered as significantly improved in Liberia, during the project extension period.

13) PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) Encouraging Customary Landowners in the Lowlands of Papua New Guinea's Central Province to Reforest their Grasslands with High Value Trees

The Secretariat reported that the financial audit report for the year 2013 has not yet been submitted by the Executing Agency and that the implementation of this project's activities has been quite slow in 2014. The delegation of PNG informed the Committee that the required financial audit report will be submitted soon and that there is a need to extend the project duration without additional funds to ensure the full achievement of the project objectives. The Committee requested the Executing Agency to submit a budget-neutral extension proposal to the Secretariat for review and approval.

14) PD 590/10 Rev.1 (F) Integrated Fire Management in Rural Communities of Guatemala: Establishment of Pilot Sites for the Implementation of Sustainable Integrated Fire Management Practices

The Committee noted that this project is currently finalizing its activities and is to submit its completion report, other relevant technical documents and the final financial audit report to the Secretariat shortly.

The project coordinator, Ing. Carlos Gomez, gave a presentation to the Committee on the project's main achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt. The Committee further noted that this project has contributed tremendously towards the use and management of fire in forestry practices by the local communities in Guatemala.

This project is expected to be reported as successfully completed to the CRF at its next session in 2015.

15) PD 622/11 Rev.1 (F) Marketing of Native Plant Seeds, Seedlings and Timber Products to Improve Living Standards and Strengthen Regional Forest Policies in the Amazon Region of Peru: A Pilot Case on the Taulia Molinopampa Rural Community

The committee took note that this project has currently concluded all its field activities and will further submit the completion report, other relevant technical documents and the final financial audit report to the Secretariat shortly. In this light, this project is expected to be reported as completed during the 49th CRF Session.

(B) Projects awaiting implementation agreement

1) PD 477/07 Rev.4 (F) Improving Forest Functions in Bengkulu Province through Community Participation in Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest by Using Local Prospective Commodities (Indonesia)

The Committee took note that this project will start soon as the project agreement was recently finalized.

2) PD 563/09 Rev.4 (F) Community Based Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed (Malaysia)

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) in China has pledged its financial contribution to support the project implementation under the collaboration framework between ITTO and APFNet. In the project implementation, ITTO role has been specified as Supervisory Agency to provide all necessary assistance to ensure effective and successful implementation of the Project in collaboration with the Executing Agency (Sarawak Forest Department). The Committee noted that there is an urgent need for the Executing Agency to expedite all the necessary administrative arrangements, including the establishment of a competent project management team and the speedy review of the project agreement, for the early commencement of the project.

The delegation of Malaysia welcomed the partnership between ITTO and APFNet and reported that the establishment of a project management team will be finalized soon. The Committee was informed that the project site is located in a very remote area with the engagement of two different local indigenous

communities. In light of this, the Committee urged the Sarawak Forest Department to take the speedy establishment of a competent project management team to meet such challenges and to successfully implement the project in accordance the rules and procedures of ITTO and APFNet.

3) PD 602/11 Rev.3 (F) Tropical Forest Governance in the Region of Darien, Panama

The Committee took note that the agreement for the implementation of this project is to be finalized shortly and that the project itself can be expected to start early next year.

(C) Projects awaiting financing

The Committee noted that twenty-nine (29) projects approved at earlier and current Sessions are still awaiting funding, out of which ten (10) will be sunset if funding is not secured before the next Session.

- 1) *PD 452/07 Rev.5 (F) Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase II (Brazil)
- 2) PD 460/07 Rev.2 (F) Achieving Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in China through Local Capacity Building and Community Development – Phase II (China)
- 3) *PD 554/09 Rev.3 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Forests in the Collective Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia
- 4) PD 618/11 Rev.4 (F) Establishment of Spatial Forst Resources Information System (SPA-FRIS) in West Papua Province (Indonesia)
- 5) *PD 631/12 Rev.2 (F) Reforestation of Coastal Wetlands in Southern Ghana Using Indigenous Tree and Bamboo Species
- 6) *PD 645/12 Rev.3 (F) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management of Rinjani Barat Forest Management Unit (Indonesia)
- 7) *PD 646/12 Rev.3 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Cempaka Tree Species (*Elmerrillia* spp) Through Plantation Development with Local Community Participation in North Sulawesi, Indonesia
- 8) *PD 665/12 Rev.2 (F) Implementation of a Fire Prevention and Control Plan in the Central Amazon Region of Peru
- 9) PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F) Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana
- 10) PD 690/13 Rev.3 (F) Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Sustainable Rural Development in the Peruvian Amazon Region (Peru)
- 11) *PD 695/13 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation of Degraded Gazetted Forests in the Mount Korhogo, Foubou and Badenou in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Involvement of Local Communities
- 12) PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra (Indonesia)
- 13) PD 713/13 Rev. 2 (F) Operationalising the Policy on Sustainable Management of Sandalwood Resource Through Improved Livelihood and Increased Participation of Local Communities (Indonesia)
- 14) *PD 715/13 Rev.1 (F) Improving the Production, Conservation and Management of Forest Seeds in Benin

- 15) PD 717/13 Rev.2 (F) Enrichment of Young Forest Plantations with Selected NTFPs for Livelihood Improvement and Support of Forest Fringe Communities in Atwima Mponua District of Ghana, in order to Secure and Protect the Resources on a Sustainable Forest Management Basis
- 16) PD 721/13 Rev.2 (F) Building a Participatory and Inclusive Sustainable Forest Management Process for the Reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Ixil Forest Areas of the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala
- 17) *PD 723/13 Rev.1 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar
- 18) *PD 724/13 Rev.1 (F) Guidelines for the Management of Tara (*Caesalpinea Spinosa*) Plantations with a View to the Rehabilitation of Waste Lands in the Sub-Humid Tropics of the Coastal Region of Peru
- 19) PD 725/13 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Land in the Ahua Forest Reserve by the Women Members of Association Malebi in Compensation for the Forest Resources Removed to Meet the Need for Fuel Wood (Charcoal and Fire Wood) (Côte d'Ivoire)
- 20) PD 733/14 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Forest Restoration through Multiple-Use of Degraded Forest Lands within Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve in Ghana
- 21) PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra (Indonesia)
- 22) PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp)
- 23) PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (*Diospyros celebica* Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia)
- 24) PD 740/14 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Management Through REDD+ Mechanisms in Kampong Thom Province (Cambodia)
- 25) PD 741/14 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru
- 26) PD 742/14 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
- 27) PD 747/14 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Community Forest Management Through the Implementation of Forest Training and Extension in Guatemala
- 28) PD 752/14 Rev.1 (F) Restoring Mangrove Forest Landscapes: An Opportunity for Social Development at the Alvarado Lagoon System (ALS) Ramsar Site, Veracruz, Mexico
- 29) PD 764/14 Rev.1 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilots Areas of PNG

*Those projects with asterisk (approved but not funded within 20 months) will be sunset at the next Session.

(D) Projects coming under the sunset provisions since the last Session

The Committee noted that five (5) projects have become sunset since its last Session.

- 1) PD 605/11 Rev.3 (F) Demonstration and Extension of Fire-break Forest Belts for Efficient Forest Fire Management in Tropical Forests in Guangdong Province, China

- 2) PD 609/11 Rev.3 (F) Enhancement of the Participatory Bushfire Prevention and Management System in Togo
- 3) PD 623/11 Rev.3 (F) Production and Availability of Teak Clone Varieties: Development of Improved Plant Material for Reforestation in Togo
- 4) PD 628/11 Rev.3 (F) Strengthening of Forest Management Practices of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala
- 5) PD 629/11 Rev.2 (F) Protection, Management and Restoration of Forest Lands for Water Catchment and Flow Regulation as a Climate Change Adaptation Measure (Guatemala)

11.2 Pre-project Work in Progress

The Committee took note of a status report of approved pre-projects in document CRF(XLVIII)/3. The Committee discussed the issues associated with a number of pre-projects. Details of these discussions are as follows:

(A) Pre-projects under implementation

- 1) **PPD 94/04 Rev.1 (F) Evaluation of the Status of Forest Resources in Côte d'Ivoire (Côte d'Ivoire)**

The Committee took note that the implementing agency has not submitted the completion report and the final financial audit report. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to take the necessary arrangements for the submission of these reports at its earliest convenience, not later than March 2015.

- 2) **PPD 108/04 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable Community Management, Utilization and Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystems in Ghana (Ghana)**

The Committee noted that the implementing agency has not submitted the final financial audit report of this pre-project, which was reported as completed, but pending the final financial audit report, at a previous CRF session. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to submit the final financial audit report, at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2015.

- 3) **PPD 123/06 Rev.1 (F) Controlling the Dieback and Decay Phenomenon in Plantation Species (Côte d'Ivoire)**

The Committee noted that the implementing agency has already submitted the completion report and final technical report, and the pre-project should be documented and reported as completed at the next Committee session, if the final financial audit report is submitted in due time. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to submit the final financial audit report, at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2015.

- 4) **PPD 153/11 Rev.1(F) Forest Fire Prevention Through the Implementation of Regional Actions with the Participation of Local Communities and other Relevant Stakeholders So As To Ensure the Protection of Forests and Ecosystem Services (Colombia)**

The Committee observed that the Executing Agency ASOCARS had completed all pre-project activities and forwarded the Completion Report, as well as products 1 (Technical Report on forest fires causes) and 2 (the project proposal), to ITTO's Regional Officer. The Completion Report was assessed by the latter who requested adjustments and corrections from ASOCARS. It further noted that despite several deadlines and the insistence from ITTO's Regional Officer, ASOCARS had not yet returned the revised documents and that throughout the year 2014, ITTO's Regional Officer had continued requesting and insisting ASOCARS for these, in addition to the submission of the pre-project's final financial audit report, all of which are already overdue.

As such, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and submit all the pending documents in time, such as the revised project completion report and the final financial audit report, so as to report this project as completed at its next session.

(B) Pre-projects awaiting implementation agreement

The Committee noted that there was no pre-projects awaiting implementation agreement.

(C) Pre-projects awaiting financing

The Committee noted that nine (9) pre-projects approved at earlier and current Sessions are still awaiting funding, out of which four (4) will be sunset if funding is not secured before the next Session.

- 1) *PPD 162/12 Rev.2 (F) Developing Model of Self-sufficient and Sustainable FMU (Indonesia)
- 2) *PPD 163/12 Rev.2 (F) Assessing Growth and Yield Rates of Major Commercial Species for the Adjustment of Forest Management Programs in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico
- 3) *PPD 166/13 Rev.2 (F) Improving the Fuel Wood Supply through the Provision of Support to the Development of Forest Plantations in the Mokolo, Maroua and Kaelé Municipalities in the Sahelian Part of Cameroon
- 4) PPD 169/13 Rev.2 (F) Identification of a Project for the Reforestation and Management of the Large Ndjock-Lipan Forest Complex in the Bondjock, Departement of Nyong-and-Kélé, Central Cameroon
- 5) PPD 170/13 Rev.2 (F) Identification of a Project in Support of Natural Regeneration and the Establishment of Forest Plantations in the Mbam-and-Kim Department (Cameroon)
- 6) *PPD 176/13 Rev.1 (F) Identification and Planning of Measures for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Estate Owned by Individuals in Togo
- 7) PPD 177/14 Rev.1 (F) Inventory of Mangrove Ecosystem and Development of a Management Plan for Gabon
- 8) PPD 180/14 Rev.1 (F) Pre-Project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Côte d'Ivoire
- 9) PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F) Feasibility Study on the Payment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Forests in Benin

*Those projects with asterisk (approved but not funded within 20 months) will be sunset at the next Session.

(D) Pre-projects coming under the sunset provisions since the last Session

The Committee noted that two (2) pre-projects have become sunset since its last Session.

- 1) PPD 151/11 Rev.3 (F) Support to the Local Communities of the Mono Plain for the Promotion and Sustainable Management of Community Forests in Togo
- 2) PPD 160/12 Rev.1 (F) Study for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Benin

Item 12 - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2015

Mr. Taivo Denks (Estonia) was elected as Chairperson for 2015. Dr. M. Nurudeen Iddrisu (Ghana) was elected as Vice-Chairperson for 2015.

Item 13 - Dates and Venues of the Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Sessions of the Committee

The Forty-ninth Session of the Committee would be held in conjunction with the Fifty-first Session of the International Tropical Timber Council.

The Fiftieth Session of the Committee would be held in conjunction with the Fifty-second Session of the International Tropical Timber Council.

Item 14 - Other Business

The Chairperson invited Mr. Jean-Guénolé Cornet from the MORINGA Agroforestry Fund to make a presentation on their work. He informed the Committee that the Moringa Partnership is the investment advisor to Moringa SICAR, SCA (the Moringa Fund). The Moringa Partnership has offices in Paris and Geneva and representative offices in Colombia, Peru, Chile, Brazil, Cameroon, Gabon and Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Moringa Agroforestry includes two following components:

- The Moringa SICAR, as an investment vehicle with a final targeted size of €100m which invests in profitable larger scale agroforestry projects with high environmental and social impacts; and
- The Agroforestry Technical Assistance Facility which is a grant-based Technical Assistance (TA) programme and contributes to project preparation, capacity building, technical strengthening and dissemination of Moringa's innovations and achievements.

The Committee thanked the presentation on the MORINGA Agroforestry Fund.

Item 15 - Recommendations to the International Tropical Timber Council

- (A) The Committee recommended that funding be made immediately available for the following projects and pre-project approved under the Project Cycle Spring 2014 and Project Cycle Autumn 2014:

Projects

PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F)	Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana [ITTO Budget: US\$489,194.00]
PD 690/13 Rev.3 (F)	Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Sustainable Rural Development in the Peruvian Amazon Region (Peru) [ITTO Budget: US\$601,037.00]
PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F)	Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra [ITTO Budget: US\$498,154.00]
PD 713/13 Rev. 2 (F)	Operationalising the Policy on Sustainable Management of Sandalwood Resource Through Improved Livelihood and Increased Participation of Local Communities (Indonesia) [ITTO Budget: US\$592,155.20]
PD 717/13 Rev.2 (F)	Enrichment of Young Forest Plantations with Selected NTFPs for Livelihood Improvement and Support of Forest Fringe Communities in Atwima Mponua District of Ghana, in order to Secure and Protect the Resources on a Sustainable Forest Management Basis (Indonesia) [ITTO Budget: US\$414,904.00]
PD 721/13 Rev.2 (F)	Building a Participatory and Inclusive Sustainable Forest Management Process for the Reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Ixil Forest Areas of the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala [ITTO Budget: US\$441,238.50]

- PD 725/13 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Land in the Ahua Forest Reserve by the Women Members of Association Malebi in Compensation for the Forest Resources Removed to Meet the Need for Fuel Wood (Charcoal and Fire Wood) (Côte d'Ivoire) [ITTO Budget: US\$149,408.00]
- PD 733/14 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Forest Restoration through Multiple-Use of Degraded Forest Lands within Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve in Ghana [ITTO Budget: US\$416,246.00]
- PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra (Indonesia)[ITTO Budget: US\$453,684.00]
- PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (Dalbergia spp) [ITTO Budget: US\$414,792.00]
- PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (Diospyros celebica Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia) [ITTO Budget: US\$402,550.00]
- PD 740/14 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Management Through REDD+ Mechanisms in Kampong Thom Province (Cambodia) [ITTO Budget: US\$484,792.00]
- PD 741/14 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru [ITTO Budget: US\$480,077.00]
- PD 742/14 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 [ITTO Budget: US\$522,637.00]
- PD 747/14 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Community Forest Management Through the Implementation of Forest Training and Extension in Guatemala [ITTO Budget: US\$572,292.00]
- PD 752/14 Rev.1 (F) Restoring Mangrove Forest Landscapes: An Opportunity for Social Development at the Alvarado Lagoon System (ALS) Ramsar Site, Veracruz, Mexico [ITTO Budget: US\$482,391.00]
- PD 764/14 Rev.1 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilots Areas of PNG [ITTO Budget: US\$663,829.00]

Pre-projects

- PPD 169/13 Rev.2 (F) Identification of a Project for the Reforestation and Management of the Large Ndjock-Lipan Forest Complex in the Bondjock, Departement of Nyong-and-Kélé, Central Cameroon [ITTO Budget: US\$93,285.00]
- PPD 170/13 Rev.2 (F) Identification of a Project in Support of Natural Regeneration and the Establishment of Forest Plantations in the Mbam-and-Kim Department (Cameroon) [ITTO Budget: US\$90,804.00]
- PPD 177/14 Rev.1 (F) Inventory of Mangrove Ecosystem and Development of a Management Plan for Gabon [ITTO Budget: US\$95,928.00]
- PPD 180/14 Rev.1 (F) Pre-Project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Côte d'Ivoire [ITTO Budget: US\$99,994.00]
- PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F) Feasibility Study on the Payment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Forests in Benin [ITTO Budget: US\$71,098.00]
- (B) The Committee recommended that an activity to undertake a survey to assess the use of ITTO guidelines as contained in Appendix be included in the ITTO BWP 2015-2016.

Item 16 - Report of the Session

The Committee accepted this Report for submission to the Council. Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the able manner in which the Chairperson handled the conduct of the meetings of the Committees with assistance of the Vice-Chairperson and the Secretariat.

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY UNDER THE DRAFT BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015-2016

UNDERTAKE A SURVEY TO ASSESS THE USE OF THE VARIOUS ITTO GUIDELINES ON THE
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PLANTATIONS, SECONDARY FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TROPICS

Activity	Implementation Approach and Cost	Expected SAP Outcomes	SAP Indicators	Activity Targets	Responsible Body
Undertake a survey to assess the use of the various ITTO guidelines on the sustainable management of plantations, secondary forests, biodiversity and natural forests in the tropics [ITTA, 2006, Article 1(a), (d), (m), (r)]	<p>Make provisions to conduct a survey to assess the use of ITTO guidelines which have been developed to address the social, economic and environmental issues of sustainable forest management in the tropics.</p> <p>A survey will be conducted to gather responses from a full range of tropical forest stakeholders, through a professional online survey services provider, with the aim of analyzing the awareness, use and impacts of ITTO guidelines. Information can be used to make guidelines more useful and accessible to a greater number of practitioners while enhancing public appreciation of these resources.</p> <p>Estimated cost: US\$50,000 Estimated funding sources: Voluntary Contributions Year 2015–US\$50,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased forest area that is managed sustainably and legally harvested Improvement in outreach and access of ITTO guidelines by a border group of stakeholders and practitioners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of forest managers of state and local forestry agencies, forest companies, and rural communities using ITTO SFM-related guidelines Number of civil-society organizations and research and education institutions using ITTO SFM-related guidelines Number of national and sub-national governments promoting ITTO SFM related guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A report on the use of ITTO guidelines published by the end of 2015 	CRF

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UNDERTAKE A SURVEY TO ASSESS THE USE OF THE VARIOUS ITTO GUIDELINES ON THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PLANTATIONS, SECONDARY FORESTS, BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL FORESTS IN THE TROPICS

[ITTA, 2006, Article 1(a), (d), (m), (r)]
[Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, Strategic Priority 1]

I. Background

ITTO has developed a large number of policy guidelines as a reference for policy decisions and as a technical guidance on sustainable forest management in the tropics. ITTO policy guidelines published as its Policy Development Series include:

- ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (1992)
- ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests (1993)
- ITTO Guidelines for Fire Management in Tropical Forests (1997)
- ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests (2002)
- ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests (2009)
- ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (2014)

The ITTO policy guidelines are intended for national and subnational governments, private-sector organizations, civil-society organizations, research and education institutions, forest managers and other groups and bodies engaged in sustainable forest management.

II. Description

The purpose of this activity is to conduct a survey to assess the use of key ITTO policy guidelines from a full range of tropical forest stakeholders, through a professional online survey services provider, with the aim of analyzing the impacts of ITTO policy guidelines and their best use towards the achievement of sustainable forest management in the tropics. An on-line survey will be designed to identify the use of key ITTO policy guidelines and to receive feedback on the importance of developing and promoting the policy guidelines in the context of ITTO's work on SFM, and suggestions related to ITTO's work on the policy guidelines.

III. Expected Outputs

- Information on the status of using key ITTO policy guidelines and feedback from tropical forest stakeholders
- Recommendations improving outreach and access of ITTO policy guidelines by a border group of stakeholders, and practitioners

IV. Target Countries Global

V. Duration & Timing 12 months in 2015

VI. Budget US\$50,000 (including consultant and on-line survey services provider fees, questionnaire development in the three languages, reporting to CRF).