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REPORT ON

PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

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● **PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

A total of thirty five (35) approved projects are currently under implementation while additional two (2) projects are awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are twenty five (25) approved projects still awaiting full financing while there are six (6) approved projects that fell under the sunset provision since the last Session. In this report the projects are grouped into four categories:

- A. Projects under active implementation;
- B. Projects which have financing allocated, but for which the contract or agreement regulating implementation has still not been concluded;
- C. Projects which still do not have full financing secured; and
- D. Projects coming under the sunset provision since the last Session consistently with Decision 2(X), Annex 2, Paragraph 2. In some cases, these projects were at least partially funded or had other developments which the Committee may wish to consider in its discussions. These projects are grouped together in Section C of this report.

A. PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

- (1) **PD 21/98 Rev.2 (F) Forest Management, Community Involvement and Sustainable Use of Si-Kop Forest Area (Coastal Province, Cameroon) - Phase II**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,289,007
ITTO Budget:		US\$	647,517
Government of Japan:	US\$	647,517	
Government of Cameroon:		US\$	641,490

Implementing Agency: Office National de Développement des Forêts (ONADEF)

Session of Approval: ITTC XXIV, May 1998, Libreville, Gabon

Starting Date and Duration: June 2000 / Four years

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First project extension granted until July 2011 (NOLF.09-0197)
Second project extension granted until July 2012 (NOLF.11-0197)
Third project extension granted until January 2013 (NOLF.12-0197)
Fourth project extension granted until May 2014 (NOLF.14-0045)
Fifth project extension granted until August 2015 (NOLF.15-0077)

The project was approved by the Council at its Twenty-fourth Session in May 1998. Full financing was pledged by the Government of Japan during the Twenty-seventh Session in November 1999. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 20 March 2000 in Yaoundé, during an official visit of the Executive Director to Cameroon. The first disbursement of funds was made on 20 June 2000. The project has been under suspension enforced since November 2003, as it was decided by the 33rd Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management.

The objectives of the project are to sustainably manage the communal and community forests of the Si-Kop forest area, to increase the income of the local communities through agroforestry and improved agriculture and to develop eco-tourism as a new source of income.

Once again, it is important to remind that this project has been suspended from November 2003 to October 2008. Based on the findings of the special monitoring mission conducted in October 2003 and in accordance with Article 25, Paragraph 4, of the ITTA, 1994, and Article IX, Section 9.01, of the Project Agreement, the Executive Director decided to suspend this project until the recommendations by the mission are fully complied with. Then, the Thirty-third Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest

Management recommended that the suspension of the project be maintained until the conditions for further ITTO support as stated by the ITTO mission have been fully met.

Further to the recommendation of the Forty-first Session of the Committee, the progress made by the Executing Agency to meet the requirements related to the suspension of this project can be summarized as follows: (i) The replenishment of the ITTO funds (US\$ 110,982), that have been utilized by the Executing Agency for other expenditures without prior consultation with and expressed approval by ITTO, was confirmed by a bank statement of Cameroon Commercial Bank dated on 25 August 2008; (ii) The process for the gazetting of the 25,000 ha Si-Kop Forest has resumed thanks to the payment of the amount of XAF11,535,000 (equivalent to EUR17,585) by the Ministry of Forestry and Fauna of Cameroon, in June 2008, as the counterpart contribution covering the costs of that process. The process is to be finalized soon with the signing of the Forest Classification Act by the Government of Cameroon.

In relation to the progress made by the Executing Agency to meet the suspension-related requirements, the ITTO Secretariat lifted the suspension on 7 October 2008 in order to allow an independent mid-term evaluation to be conducted. The lifting of the suspension was endorsed by the Forty-second Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management in November 2008.

No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the Executing Agency (ANAFOR, ex ONADEF) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities have been completed in the Si-Kop Gazetted Forest.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,550,624
ITTO Budget:		US\$	559,493
Government of Japan:	US\$	484,493	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	75,000	
Government of Colombia (during suspension, from 2005 to 2008):		US\$	689,614
Maderas del Darien S.A.:		US\$	301,517

Implementing Agency: Corporación de Desarrollo Sostenible del Chocó (CODECHOCÓ)

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XXVII, November 1999, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: March 2001 / 36 months
June 2009 (restarting)

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: December 2010 (CRFXLII)

The Council approved the project at its Twenty-seventh Session in November 1999 and fully financed it at its Twenty-eighth Session in Lima, Peru. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on March 5, 2001. The first disbursement of funds was made on March 16, 2001.

This project seeks to establish and manage 2,000 hectares of protection/production plantations on lands granted by the Colombian government to the Afro-Colombian communities in the Domingodo-Truando region. Reforestation has been identified as one of the activities that will facilitate the sustainable development of the area given the high forestry potential of these lands. The local communities will work in a participatory manner with Maderas del Darien S.A., a local forest industry with extensive experience in the proposed forestry practices, so as to ensure the equitable distribution of benefits generated by the project.

The Committee may take note that the project was suspended in January 2004 due to irregularities by the former executing agency, SINERGIA. However, after the government of Colombia addressed these

irregularities and selected a new Executing Agency, CODECHOCO, the suspension was lifted in September 2008. An ancillary agreement, regulating the implementation of the project with the new Executing Agency, CODECHOCO, was duly signed in March 2009. The third installment of funds was transferred in June 2009, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of an updated Yearly Plan of Operations and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat.

The Committee may further take note that at its previous session it observed that the implementation of this project continued progressing at a slow pace, that the Executing Agency CODECHOCO continued to be haphazard in submitting its progress reports and other documents, 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 audited report. While the project was slated to have been completed in December 2010, the Committee further observed that prior to its 47th Session the Executing Agency had submitted a progress report, a 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 audited report.

In this light, the Committee at its two previous sessions 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. Since the Forty-seventh Session of the Committee and in accordance with the ITTO Regional Officer's report, the Executing Agency 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 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. The ITTO Regional Officer, however, further informed that it appeared that some unspecified work in the field continued to be carried out with funds provided by the National Environmental Compensation Fund, and that efforts were currently being undertaken by the EA to produce the aforementioned pending documents.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	515,700
ITTO Budget:		US\$	324,000
Government of Japan:	US\$	324,000	
COUNTERPART:		US\$	191,700

Implementing Agency:	Embrapa Eastern Amazon
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XXXVIII, June 2005, Brazzaville, Rep. of Congo
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2007 / 24 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension until December 2011 (CRFXLIV)

The project was approved and fully financed by the Council at its Thirty-eighth Session in June 2005. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in May 2007. Upon the submission of the First Yearly Plan of Operations and a notification that implementation was about to begin, the first installment of funds was transferred in October 2007.

The objective of this project is to contribute towards the recovery of degraded areas on family-owned lands in the eastern Amazon through capacity-building among farmers in the project area, networking of partnerships involving farmers, scholar students, research institutions and producers' associations interested in the rehabilitation of degraded forests. The project also includes the establishment and monitoring of demonstration areas using various schemes and a review of current legislation with a view to reducing deforestation and promoting the rehabilitation of degraded lands. The project plans to involve 150 farmer families and to establish 20 demonstration areas, of which nine will be monitored in order to collect and process biophysical and chemical information.

Since the Forty-eight Session of the Committee and in accordance with information provided by the Executing Agency to the ITTO Regional Officer, the implementation of the project can be described as follows:

- During the month of March, the project administrative documents such as the audit report for 2014, an updated yearly plan of operations until July 2015, a progress report to December 2014, and a draft article for TFU, among others, were submitted by EMBRAPA, and the last tranche of funds was disbursed to in May 2015; and
- EMBRAPA is currently preparing to finalize the scheduled activities by December 2015, according to a draft extension in time request.

Nonetheless, the ITTO Regional Officer noted that EMBRAPA failed to present the most recent progress report, due to be delivered until July 31, 2015, and is currently following up for its prompt submission.

(4) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	696,225
ITTO Budget:		US\$	514,653
Government of Japan:	US\$	474,653	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	10,000	
Government of Finland:	US\$	30,000	
INIFAP:		US\$	181,572
Implementing Agency:	National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Animal Research (INIFAP)		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XXXVIII, June 2005, Brazzaville, Rep. of Congo		
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2006 / 24 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension until March 2011 (CRF XLIII) Second extension until September 2012 (CRF XLIII) Third extension until September 2013 (CRF XLVI) Fourth extension until December 2014 (NOL No. F.14-0051)		

The project was approved by the Council during its Thirty-eighth Session in June 2005 and full financing for its implementation was pledged during the Thirty-ninth Session in November 2005. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed in April 2006. Upon the submission of the Detailed Work Plan and a notification that implementation was about to begin, the first installment of funds was transferred in July 2006. The second disbursement of funds was transferred to INIFAP in February 2009, after verifying the executing agency's compliance with the conditions established for it. The 3rd disbursement was released on October 13th, 2011, after a successful and productive 3rd Project Steering Committee took place in Campeche in February 2011. The fourth and last disbursement was released in April 2014 shortly after submission of their 15th progress report, several technical reports and an appropriate explanation as regards the sustainability of the implemented actions after project completion and its expected impacts. Last but not least, due to some delays incurred during the verification process, the

Secretariat approved several extensions requested by INIFAP, and approved one last extension without additional funds until December 31, 2014 in order to incorporate one additional activity requested by CONAFOR, at which the project's activities are expected to be successfully completed.

This project seeks to strengthen, encourage and evaluate sustainable tropical forest management in Mexico, with a view to achieving the ITTO's Objective 2000 and the Mexican Government's Forest Development Plan so that international trade may be based on raw materials originating from forests managed and certified according to criteria and indicators that strengthen the sustainability of this resource. Overall, the proposal aims to develop management programmes for the sustainable conservation and utilization of tropical forests in the southeast of Mexico (Los Tuxtlas, Chimalapas, Selva Lacandona, Centla, Calakmul, Tekax, and Sián Kaán). More specifically, it envisions transferring knowledge to the Ejido communities that own tropical forest resources in these regions in order to develop and implement specific local C&I to evaluate and monitor the progress towards sustainable forest management.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee no new progress report has been submitted as the Executing Agency is currently finalizing its completion report and other project outputs such as technical documents and studies. These publications are to be uploaded onto the ITTO website upon project completion for further dissemination to all our member countries and other interested parties. This project is expected to be reported as completed to the CRF at its next session in 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	187,226
ITTO Budget:		US\$	143,856
Government of France:	US\$	60,000	
Government of Japan:	US\$	83,856	
UR2PI:		US\$	34,370
ECO Corp.:		US\$	9,000

Implementing Agency: Research Unit on the Productivity of Industrial Plantations (UR2PI) in collaboration with the General Directorate for Forest Economy (DGEF)

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XXXIX, November 2005, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: January 2009 / 12 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension: July 2010 (NOLF.10-0155)

The Council approved the project at its Thirty-ninth Session in Yokohama, Japan, in November 2005, and financing for its implementation was partly pledged during the Fortieth Session in June 2006, for an amount of Euro 50,000. The Council authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account. The full financing for its implementation was ensured when the shortfall amount was made available in August 2007 by France. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 7 September 2007 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in January 2009. A project extension was granted until July 2010, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

The project aims at contributing to the sustainable management of forest resources and the reduction of poverty through the application of basic management principles in Congo's planted forests. Specifically, it intends to develop a set of sustainable management criteria & indicators based on ITTO C&I for the establishment and management of plantation forests in Congo.

The Executing Agency had already submitted the completion report. It shall be reported as completed project upon receipt of the final financial audit report. The Secretariat urges the Executing Agency to submit the final financial audit report at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2016.

(6) PD 383/05 Rev.2 (F) Community Forest Development in Gabon

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	899,832
ITTO Budget:		US\$	594,432
Government of Japan:	US\$	514,432	
Government of France:	US\$	60,000	
Government of Norway:	US\$	20,000	
Government of Gabon:		US\$	305,400
Implementing Agency:	<i>Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts</i>		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XL, May-June 2006, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico		
Starting Date and Duration:	March 2009 / 36 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension: until March 2013 (NOLF.12-0274) Second extension: until December 2014 (NOLF.14-0300) Third extension: until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0005)		

The Council approved the project at its Fortieth Session in Merida, Mexico, in June 2006. Financing was not allocated at that time, but it was fully funded at the Forty-first Council Session, in November 2006, in Yokohama, Japan. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 13 March 2007 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in March 2009. Two project extensions were granted until December 2014, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on official requests including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

The project aims to contribute to the sustainable management of the rural forest estate and organizing the village estates and combating poverty in the communities established in the rural areas through the development of community forests. The specific objectives are to experiment the establishment of three pilot community forests and to develop SFM guidelines for community forests from the model forest experiment.

The implementation of some project activities had been delayed because of internal turnover of some personnel, involved in the project implementation, within the Ministry of Forestry of Gabon. The Secretariat had postponed the disbursement of the remaining installments of ITTO until the Executing Agency had submitted the annual financial audit reports for the years ended 31 December 2012 and 31 December 2013, as required by the rules and procedures applying to ITTO projects.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, the progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- A series of sensitization meetings had been convened with local authorities and representatives of key stakeholders, including local communities in the Nkang, Ongam and Oyenano-Kessy-Odavo villages, in order to make progress together in the process of creating and establishing community forests;
- The Executing Agency has re-engaged the international consultant in community forestry (Mr. Robert Nkwinkwa), already approved by the ITTO Secretariat, for the technical support on the implementation of remaining project activities which should lead to the achievement of expected outputs;
- Field visits were undertaken by the project implementing team and led to the selection of appropriate sites to be demarcated for the creation and establishment of community forests near the Nkang, Ongam and Oyenano-Kessy-Odavo villages;
- The sensitization campaigns were an opportunity to explain to target community groups how community forests could be a regular source of income for them, if regulated by appropriate simplified management plans, and therefore contributing to the improvement of their livelihood; and

- The draft guidebook regarding procedures and rules for the creation and establishment of community forests in Gabon had been circulated for review and comments by appropriate stakeholders' representatives.

The sixth project monitoring mission and associated Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting had been scheduled for September 2015, in order to assess in-depth the implementation status of this project. The monitoring mission would be an opportunity to discuss with Government of Gabon about the reasons of the non-mobilization of the counterpart contribution to this project in 2015 which could have an impact on the successful implementation of this project.

(7) PD 419/06 Rev.3 (F) EXT Forest Seeds Management and Conservation: Project for Rehabilitation and Restoration of Degraded Forests in Côte d'Ivoire with the Involvement of Local Communities (Refugees, Internally Displaced People and Local Populations) (Côte d'Ivoire)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	2,318,280
ITTO Budget:		US\$	1,800,000
Government of Japan:	US\$	1,800,000	
Agency/GOC:		US\$	518,280
Implementing Agency:	Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2013 / 48 months		

The project was approved under the Spring 2013 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, and the financing was made at the same Project Cycle under the framework of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD V). The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 02 June 2013, during the TICAD V meeting in Yokohama, Japan, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Executive Director of ITTO and the Managing Director of SODEFOR. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 16 October 2013.

The project intends to contribute to the sustainable management of gazetted forests in Côte d'Ivoire. Specifically, the goal of this project is to have degraded forest lands rehabilitated by displaced populations and refugees. A special meeting was held in August 2013, for the preparation of a smooth transition between PD 419/06 Rev.3 (F) and PD 419/06 Rev.3 (F) EXT-TICAD5 Rev.1, in order to ensure that the main outputs, outcomes and results of the first project feed the second for its implementation.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project online monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The draft report prepared by EGP Consulting cabinet, on the socio-economic study of the project target area, was circulated for review and comments by stakeholders;
- 406 persons (among them 328 women) have been trained by the project team members on the techniques regarding the establishment and maintenance of a nursery for the production of forest seedlings in 9 villages around the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests (Guinkin, Bédya-Goazon, Guezon, Zébly, Kaadé, Douedy-goazon, Béoua, Zéaglo and Béoué);
- Further to socio-economic study, five groups of women (for a total number of 352) were identified and selected in priority in each of the following five villages: Zéaglo, Bedy-goazon, Guézon, Niambly and Tien-Oula. They were organized in associations or cooperatives to be supported by the project for their involvement in the rehabilitation activities to be implemented in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests with the participation of local communities. The farming kits had been distributed to the these five women groups, for the production of food crops associated with trees under the taungya agroforestry system during the rehabilitation activities implemented in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests;
- Additional 187 persons from Guézon, Nanandy, Sokoura and Samuelkro villages were sensitized and trained on the taungya agroforestry system allowing to combine trees with food crops, for the

rehabilitation of the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests, as way to get early income from the food crops products which could contribute to the improvement of their livelihood;

- Around 638 ha had been planted with the involvement of local populations for the rehabilitation of the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests;
- Five nurseries (three around Guiglo village, one in Guinkin village and one in Bedi-Goazon village) were established with the participation of local communities, duly trained for that purpose by the technicians of SODEFOR, and produced 545,000 seedlings of the following species: *Tieghemela heckelii*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, *Tectona grandis*, *Khaya ivorensis*, *Pericopsis elata*, *Mansonia altissima* and *Irvingia gabonensis*. Additional 195,400 seedlings were brought from the nursery established in the Gazetted Forest of Yapo-Abbe in order to meet the needs for the rehabilitation activities in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests;

The security conditions have significantly improved in the target project areas around the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests, so that there has been less and less need to request for armed soldiers to ensure the safety of the project team members during their works in the field for the project implementation. This part of Cote d'Ivoire continues to be subject to special surveillance by political and security institutions of the Government of Cote d'Ivoire, as the reconciliation process among local populations has not been achieved as in other regions of Cote d'Ivoire.

(8) PD 424/06 Rev.2 (F) Conservation and Utilization of Medicinal Plants in Ghanaian Forests Fringe Communities (Ghana)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	537,093.40
ITTO Budget:		US\$	429,138.00
Government of Japan:	US\$	399,138.00	
Government of USA:	US\$	20,000.00	
Government of Korea:	US\$	10,000.00	
Government of Ghana:		US\$	107,955.40

Implementing Agency:	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLII, May 2007, Port Moresby, PNG
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2008 / 48 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension: October 2013 (NOLF.13-0022) Second extension: October 2014 (NOLF.14-0037)

The project was approved by the Council at its Forty-second Session in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in May 2007, and fully financed at the ITTO High Level Meeting in Accra, Ghana, in June 2008. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 1 October 2008. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 28 October 2008. Two project extensions were granted until October 2014, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

The project will contribute to develop conservation and sustainable utilization strategies for medicinal plant species within forest fringe communities of different ecological zones in Ghana. It specifically intends to document the distribution, utilization (endangered, common) and practice conservation methods for sustainable supply of medicinal plants from three different ecological zones in Ghana.

No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the Executing Agency (FORIG) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities have been completed regarding the conservation and utilization of medicinal plants in Ghanaian forest fringe communities.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	758,415
ITTO Budget:		US\$	463,115
Government of Japan:	US\$	413,115	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	50,000	
Government of Panama:		US\$	295,300
Implementing Agency:	National Environmental Authority (ANAM)		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLIII, November 2007, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2010 / 36 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension until December 2014 (No. F.13-0253) Second extension until December 2015 (No. F.15-0015)		

The Council approved the project at its Forty-third Session in November 2007 and full financing for its implementation was pledged during the Forty-fourth Session in November 2008. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in March 2009. The first installment of funds was transferred in June 2010, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. During 2010 and 2011 ANAM went through a period of political uncertainty which seriously delayed the implementation of most of the project's activities, even though ANAM did consistently continue to provide close to US\$ 100,000 in counterpart funding to the project throughout this complicated period. However, after a PSCM held in May 2012 at ANAM, the project began to be reactivated and therefore the second disbursement of funds was released at the end of May 2012. The 3rd disbursement was released in November 2013 and the 4th in November 2014. The 3rd and 4th meetings of the Project Steering Committee respectively took place in Panama City and project sites in November 2013 and November 2014.

Overall, this proposal aims at strengthening the capacities of ANAM, the National Commission for Forest Fire Prevention, Management and Control, local groups and community grassroots organisations, in integrated forest fire management applicable to the tropical forests of Panama. More specifically, it intends to achieve integrated fire management practices with the participation of communities and other national stakeholders in three pilot areas with high forest fire incidence.

Since the Forty-eighth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports submitted in February and August 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: Project's installed capacity established and integrated fire management activities implemented and monitored

85% of the activities required to achieve this output have been carried out to date, as follows:

- Three workshops have been organized to develop the planning of procedures to be followed for project implementation and development of annual work plan for each pilot area;
- Nine workshops have been organized to promote the adequate use of integrated fire management techniques at the national, regional and local levels, and three consultative technical committees have been established, one in each pilot area;
- Three baseline documents have been elaborated, one for each pilot site;
- Three voluntary forest fire brigades, each composed of 36 people, have been established and trained for each of the three pilot areas: the Cerro Guacamaya Hydrological Reserve, the El Montuoso forest Reserve, and the Buenos Aires community in Ñurum. In addition, basic fire-fighting equipment has been provided to these brigades;

- Fire break rounds have been carried out in the three pilot areas, and a further 4 km of firebreaks were constructed at each of the pilot sites with the help of around 50 local volunteers at each site, for a total of 14 km;
- The planning, organisation and site selection for the implementation of controlled and/or prescribed burnings to reduce fuel loads has been completed for the three pilot sites;
- A draft protocol and guidelines for the Volunteer Fire-fighter Brigades has been developed and will later be discussed in workshops before finalization;
- A registry of forest fires has been designed at the national level so as to maintain forest fire statistics in Panama and to further control them. This last dry season 52 brush fires were registered in Panama, of which 6 occurred in one of the pilot areas and were controlled. These fires are also being mapped. In addition, the aforementioned fire data has been uploaded into Panama's forestry statistics database system and currently contains complete data for the last six years;
- An Early-Warning System has been established in ANAM's regional offices;
- An in-depth analysis of prescribed agricultural burns is also being carried out, with a view to implement a registry for these types of fires too;
- 1,500 tree seedlings have been planted in several sites with a view towards rehabilitating burnt over areas, and are being tended and monitored for growth;
- The voluntary community fire brigades have been equipped with basic fire-fighting tools; and
- The construction of 3 fire lookout towers has begun at the selected sites.

Output 2: Personnel from target communities in pilot areas and officers from relevant institutions in the field informed and trained on integrated fire management

70% of the activities required to achieve this output have been carried out to date, as follows:

- A plan for training in integrated fire management has been devised and is being socialized by the 3 established technical consultative committees;
- Training manuals have been elaborated and published;
- Pamphlets and other dissemination materials are continuously being prepared to promote the prevention of forest fires. Some have already been distributed among schools in the pilot areas;
- Other forest fire-related institutions are being contacted at both the national and international level with a view towards creating a network in the region;
- 5 forest fire-fighter courses, 8 forest fire prevention courses and 2 first aid courses were carried out in the pilot areas;
- Many educational sessions has been carried out in the schools at each of the 3 pilot sites;
- Three TV programs related to the objectives and interim achievements of the project have been broadcast locally and eight radio programs on forest fire prevention aired throughout Panama's rural areas; and
- Environmental festivals were also organized by the schools in the 3 pilot sites.

(10) PD 450/07 Rev.2 (F,I) Capacity Building for CDM Forestry in the Framework of SFM Emphasizing Community Forests and Poverty Alleviation in Ghana (Ghana)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	666,255
ITTO Budget:		US\$	402,516
Government of Japan:	US\$	402,516	
Government of Ghana (in kind):		US\$	110,039
Michigan Technological University:		US\$	94,500
SAMARTEX (in kind):		US\$	59,200
Implementing Agency:	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLIV, November 2008, Yokohama		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2011 / 36 months		

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension: December 2014 (NOLF.14-0125)

The Council approved the project at its Forty-fourth Session in Yokohama, Japan, in November 2008. Financing was not allocated at that time, but the Council authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account. It was fully financed at the spring 2010 ITTO regular project cycle. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 21 December 2010. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 26 April 2011. A project extension was granted until December 2014, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

The project intends to build capacity for CDM-Forestry in Ghana via a community rehabilitation of degraded forests. It specifically intends to improve the capacity for CDM-Forestry in Ghana via community forest targeted at poverty alleviation in conjunction with sustainable forest management (SFM), and by involving the private sector and native communities.

No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the Executing Agency (FORIG) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities have been completed regarding the capacity building for CDM forestry in the framework of SFM emphasizing community forests and poverty alleviation in Ghana.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	650,332
ITTO Budget:		US\$	513,527
Government of Japan:	US\$	463,527	
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
IBENS:		US\$	136,805

Implementing Agency: Institute of Amazonian Research and Development (IPDA) – New Executing Agency to be approved by Council

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLVI, December 2010, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: July 2012 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: December 2015 (No. F.15-0136)

The Council approved the project in Spring 2008. Financing was not allocated within a period of 20 months after approval. However, the government of Brazil revised and resubmitted this project to the Council invoking the "Sunset" clause in ITTC Decision 2 (X) Annex 2. Revision 3 of this project was approved by Council at its XLVI session and fully financed at that same session. In February 2011, a draft agreement regulating the implementation of the project was forwarded to the Brazilian Government for joint review with IBENS, the original executing agency that was to implement the project. However, in April 2011 the Brazilian government informed the Secretariat that IBENS had moved to the State of Bahia and therefore could no longer act as the project's executing agency that required implementing activities in the State of Amazonas.

Therefore, the Brazilian Government searched for another suitable executing agency and requested ITTO to consider the Institute of Amazonian Research and Development (IPDA) as the new executing agency. In this light, the Brazilian government further submitted to the Secretariat a formal request to change the executing agency together with a profile and other detailed information on IPDA. The Secretariat reviewed the corresponding documents, considered these to be justified and the executing agency was approved during 45th CRF Session.

The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 13 January 2012. The first installment of funds was transferred in May 2012, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second disbursement was released in July 2014.

The project aims the establishment of three areas under community control in the Maués State Forest for timber production, following management plans prepared as project activity. The timber produced will be destined for the market supply in the cities in the region of the State Forest like the cities of Maués and Parintins.

Since the Forty-eight Session of the Committee and, in accordance with the report received from the ITTO Regional Officer, project development was very slow in 2015. The Executing Agency continued to have difficulties in the preparation of documents, usually with missing data, incomplete information and systematic delays in its delivery. Apparently the Executing Agency had difficulties with the project coordinator and other project staff and was forced to reshuffle its personnel. The Executing agency is currently sorting these issues out and further requested an extension in time until December 2016, which was granted in September 2015.

(12) PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F) Building the Capacities of Forestry Training Institutions Members of the Network of Central African Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions (RIFFEAC) For Providing SFM Training for Forest Concessions
“Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Rainforests and Biodiversity Conservation in the ITTO Congo Basin Countries” (ITTO)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	4,518,857.00
ITTO Budget:		US\$	3,890,681.00
Government of Japan:	US\$	3,523,645.00	
Government of Switzerland	US\$	270,000.00	
Government of Belgium	US\$	97,036.00	
RIFFEAC Training Institutions:		US\$	110,300.00
Implementing Agency:	RIFFEAC Secretariat		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2011		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2011 / 60 months		

The Council approved the project at its Forty-second Session in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in May 2007. Financing was not allocated at that time, but the Council authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account.

The project will contribute to building human resources capacities required to achieve sustainable forest ecosystem management in the Congo basin by reconciling social economic imperatives and the maintenance of ecological balances. Specifically, it intends to build the capacities of an environmental and forestry training institutions in Central Africa to ensure they are capable to train personnel qualified to implement sustainable forest management, while ensuring the biodiversity conservation in the Congo Basin.

Belgium has pledged US\$97,037 in January 2008, as a partial funding for a total ITTO budget of US\$1,080,741 for this regional project. A regional consultant was engaged to convert this project into a phased project (Phase I with an ITTO budget of US\$569,689 and Phase II with US\$511,052) in order to facilitate its additional financing by potential donors of ITTO. No additional financing was allocated by donors to the phased project version.

The project was further revised under the ITTO/CBD collaborative initiative to conserve tropical forest biodiversity [Council Decision 6(XLVI)], in close collaboration with the RIFFEAC institutions and the CBD

Secretariat. Its budget was increased from US\$1,080,741 to US\$4,408,557. In relation to the application of Council Decision 4(XLVI), the revised version was posted on the ITTO internet homepage and approved through the time bound process on 06 July 2011. This project was partially financed at the Forty-seventh Session of the Council in Guatemala, in November 2011. The Agreement regulating the project implementation was signed in March 2012. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in April 2012.

The ITTO project budget was revised to match with the amount of US\$3,890,681.00 secured from donors (Belgium, Japan and Switzerland) and an Addendum to the Agreement regulating the project implementation was duly signed by the Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) on 21 July 2015 and the ITTO Secretariat on 29 July 2015.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) has started the dissemination of twelve (12) reference training modules/programmes and associated teaching methodologies [six (6) at university level and six (6) at lower level], prepared and finalized by the University of Laval and CERFOR Technical Forestry Centre of Canada in consultation with RIFFEAC training institutions, to the seven RIFFEAC training institutions involved in the project implementation as well as to other RIFFEAC training institutions;
- Thematic Working Groups had been established for the follow-up of the operationalization/implementation of these twelve training modules/programme et associated teaching methodologies in all RIFFEAC training institutions, including those not directly supported by the project PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F);
- The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) was obliged to consult again all seven RIFFEAC training institutions (CRESA-Yaounde in Cameroon, ENEF-Libreville in Gabon, ENEF-Mbal Mayo 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/readjust their needs for building construction/rehabilitation, capital equipment and materials in correlation with the ITTO funds of US\$3,890,681.00 secured from donors (Belgium, Japan and Switzerland); and
- For the maintenance of buildings to be constructed/rehabilitated, capital equipment and materials to be acquired, a consultation process has been undertaken with the key representatives of the seven RIFFEAC training institutions involved in the project implementation.

The project implementation has been disturbed during several weeks by the demise of the project coordinator, Dr. Souleimane IBRAHIM SAMBO, in March 2015. Dr. Claude KACHAKA SUDI KAIKO was elected as the new Regional Coordinator of the RIFFEAC Secretariat by the General Assembly of RIFFEAC in June 2015; and therefore he became the new project coordinator of PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F) on 01 July 2015.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	258,674
ITTO Budget:	US\$	209,574
Government of Japan (FA):	US\$	209,574
Government of Thailand:	US\$	49,100
Implementing Agency:	Royal Forest Department in collaboration with the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand	
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLIII, November 2007, Yokohama, Japan	
Starting Date and Duration:	August 2013 / 24 months	

The Council approved the project at its Forty-third Session in November 2007. Financing was allocated at the Forty-fourth Session of the Council in November 2008. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was sent to the Royal Forest Department in January 2009. After a long delay, the project

agreement was duly signed on 1 March 2011. After completion of the necessary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the project became operational in August 2013.

The project aims to contribute to improved availability of timber and NTFPs from sustainable and legal sources. Specifically, the project intends to establish a comprehensive system of C&I for SFM in Thailand. The expected outputs of the project include: adoption of national C&I and standards of performance for SFM; adoption of national tracking/COC system and auditing system for C&I/standards of performance and COC/timber tracking; and adequate personnel trained on auditing C&I/standards of performance and COC.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee, the project activities have been focused on improvement of the draft of C&I/SOP for community forests and planted forests by taking consultations with stakeholders. The 1st Meeting of the Project Technical Committee was held on 27 March 2015 at Royal Forest Department, Bangkok, Thailand. The recommendations of the Meeting include: strengthen the project management team by including a relevant researcher from the Forestry Research and Development Office to take speedy actions for the efficient and effective implementation of the project; review the project activities to support the improvement of the draft National Sustainable Forest Management Standard (TISI 14061); and submit an extension proposal to fully implement the project activities in accordance with the project document. However, the Executing Agency has not yet submitted an extension proposal and an updated project progress report until the preparation of this document.

(14) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	430,424
ITTO Budget:		US\$	338,256
Government of Japan:	US\$	338,256	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	92,168
Implementing Agency:	Forestry Service of Bengkulu Province		
Session of Approval:	Spring 2009 Approval of validity extended during ITTC Session XLVI, Nov.2010, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months		

This project was approved under Spring 2009 Project Cycle and its validity was extended until Spring 2013. It was financed at the Forty-eighth Session of the ITTC held in November 2012. The draft project agreement was sent to the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia in January 2013. The project agreement was duly signed in October 2014. The Executing Agency is now finalizing the preparation of the Inception Report with a yearly plan of operation (YPO) for the first year.

This project is aiming at improving ecosystems and economic functions of forests and community prosperity through the rehabilitation of forests by the plantation of local prospective commodities. The plantation work will be carried out involving local communities. The Development Objective of this project is to contribute to sustainable forest management in Bengkulu Province through the rehabilitation of forests and improvement of community prosperity by planting local prospective commodities. The specific objectives of this project are: (i) to implement suitable technology for the production of high quality planting materials of locally adapted and prospective commodities; and (ii) to improve stakeholder involvement and community prosperity through successful plantation of prospective commodities.

The expected outputs of the project are: (i) Seed sources of selected species identified and their suitable technology developed; (ii) Technical guidelines for plantation technology of the selected species developed and disseminated; (iii) High quality planting materials produced and distributed; and (iv) Community forestry plantation model developed.

Although preparation work for the implementation of this project has been initiated, the Inception Report has not been submitted yet. The Executing Agency has been urged to submit the Inception Report with a yearly plan of operation (YPO) for the first year in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Standard Project Operation.

(15) PD 495/08 Rev.4 (F) Guatemalan Forest Productivity Information System

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	608,998
ITTO Budget:		US\$	492,588
Government of Japan:	US\$	350,000	
Government of USA:	US\$	142,588	
INAB:		US\$	116,410
Implementing Agency:	National Forest Institute – INAB		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLV, November 2009, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2013 / 36 months		

The Council approved the project at its Forty-fifth Session in November 2009 and full financing for its implementation was pledged during its Forty-seventh Session in November 2011. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 2 April 2012. The first installment of funds was transferred at the end of March 2013, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of an inception report, the first yearly plan of operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation was about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second disbursement of funds was transferred to INAB in December 2013, the third one in October 2014, and the fourth in May 2015, all after verifying the executing agency's compliance with the conditions established for each of these payments. 3 very productive Project Steering Committee meetings took place in Guatemala City and the project's areas of influence, the first in November 2013, the second in September 2014 and the most recent one in August 2015. At this last meeting, the steering committee noted that the project continued to be implemented in a timely fashion following the original schedule developed for the project, suffering only slight delays so far.

For many years, various forest sector stakeholders have attempted to generate information on forest growth, sites and productivity in the country. However, these efforts have been limited due to institutional, technical and financial constraints. This project responds to the need to generate information on natural forest and forest plantation productivity so as to provide data to support best practices for sustainable forest management planning and implementation, increase forest productivity and thus enhance the value of forestry activities, which will in turn lead to lower deforestation rates and reduced environmental vulnerability.

The project seeks to develop 12 technological packages for major forest species based on the establishment of networks of permanent sample plots at the national level. It envisages broad-based dissemination, awareness and training processes, as well as a cross-cutting approach with major stakeholders, including the academic, private, and public sectors.

Since the Forty-eighth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports submitted in February and August 2015, and the third Project Steering Committee meeting held in August 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: Information system based on permanent forest sample plots established

- The collection of information from existing permanent sample plot networks is about to be completed (80% progress);
- The statistical evaluation of the distribution and number of existing permanent sample plots has been finalized (100% progress);
- The monitoring of existing permanent sample plots is being carried out on an ongoing basis. To date data has been collected from 874 plots (50% progress);

- 354 new permanent sample plots have been established in 9 of INAB's Regional Directorates, well beyond the originally 96 plots planned to be established by the project (320%);
- The systematization of new monitoring information collected from the existing permanent sample plots is underway (50% progress).

Output .2 At least 12 technological packages developed to provide strategic data for decision-making in the planning and implementation of sustainable forest management

- The PSP software is in the process of being updated nationwide (60% progress);
- The prioritization of tree species to be included in the technological packages has been finalized (100%);
- The generation of growth and yield tables and curves for some of the prioritized species is underway (40% progress); and
- The elaboration of the technological packages for 12 timber species has been initiated (9%).

Output 3: Dissemination and outreach strategy on Guatemalan forest productivity implemented

- The dissemination and outreach strategy is being implemented and yearly reports on PSPs in Guatemala is being generated (65% progress);
- Interim results are currently being prepared for publishing and uploading on INAB and SIFGUA websites (35% progress); and
- The design and publication of a geographic information system on permanent forest sample plots is currently being developed (60% progress).

Output 4: Capacity built for the adequate operation of an information system on forest productivity in Guatemala

- The permanent training program for forest sector stakeholders is underway (75% progress); and
- A strategy for disseminating the results is being implemented (30% progress).

The Executing Agency to date has also produced several products, among them studies, maps, technical documents and thesis. These publications are to be uploaded onto the ITTO website shortly for further dissemination to all our member countries and other interested parties.

The Project's third Steering Committee meeting was held in August 2015. At this meeting, the Committee noted that most outputs were on track to be achieved, but further reiterated that INAB, CONAP and the academic sector needed to strengthen their inter-institutional coordination and provide greater priority to the established information system on forest productivity if it is to be sustainable in the long run.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	505,320
ITTO Budget:		US\$	396,310
Government of Switzerland:	US\$	78,000	
Government of Japan:	US\$	68,310	
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
Government of Liberia:		US\$	109,010

Implementing Agency: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLIV, November 2008, Yokohama

Starting Date and Duration: July 2009 / 30 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Project extension: until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0019)

This project has been approved and fully funded during the 44th ITTC Session in November 2008, thanks to the generous contributions of the Governments of Switzerland, Japan and the USA. The Project Agreement has been signed by the parties in April 2009. The project initiated implementation in July 2009 following the delivery of relevant documentation and nomination of a project coordinator.

The project intends to contribute to the development of forest plantations and forest restoration as an effective tool for the conservation and sustainable management of the Liberia's forest and wildlife resources, to maintain environmental quality and improve the flow of benefits to all segments of society, in line with the Liberian Forest Policy "3 C Approach": Commercially-based, Conservation-oriented and Community-involvement, which is based on the three pillars of sustainable forest management (SFM): economic, ecological and social sustainability.

The project specific objectives are: 1) To develop a national reforestation policy and afforestation strategy consistent with the National Forestry Reform Law; and 2) To develop knowledge, expertise and capability of the Forest Development Authority and other stakeholders to assess, monitor and plan forest plantation and forest restoration activities in the country.

During the last three years, no project's progress report was submitted by the Executing Agency in order to share information on progress in project implementation. The implementation of some project activities had been delayed because of internal turnover of some personnel, involved in the project implementation, within the Forestry development Authority (FDA) which is the project Executing Agency. As recommended by the 47th Committee Session, a special financial monitoring mission was carried by Mr. Manohar, ITTO Finance/Administration Officer, from 05 June to 02 July 2014, for an in-depth technical and financial assessment of the project implementation.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the Committee's recommendations, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- The Executing Agency submitted 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 installments and contingency of ITTO funds, for a total amount of US\$141,954);
- The project implementation was extended until end of December 2015, in order to allow the Executing Agency to continue implementing the remaining project activities;
- Consultation process had been carried out with main stakeholders, in order to ensure a smooth resuming of field activities in the project target areas, by the Executing Agency (Forestry Development Authority of Liberia);
- Filed visits undertaken in all project sites, after several months without project execution due to the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in Liberia, for an adequate assessment of the situation prior to resuming the implementation of project activities, as appropriate;
- Mixed forest plantation plots of *Khaya anthoteca*, *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Nauclea diderrichii*, *Triplochiton scleroxylon*, *Ceiba pentandra*, *Heritiera utilis*, *Gmelina arborea* and *Tectona grandis* species have been subject to a first series of scientific and technical surveys for the assessment of their contribution to the Liberian Forest Policy "3 C Approach" (Commercially-based, Conservation-oriented and Community-involvement), which is based on the three pillars of sustainable forest management (SFM): economic, ecological and social sustainability. These surveys were carried out in the Cavalla, Glaro, Lofa and Bong counties in Liberia; and
- With the results and findings of the abovementioned surveys, the Executing Agency started preparing the draft silvicultural guidelines for enrichment/reforestation strategies, community forestry and conservation needs in Liberia, closely coordinated with the REDD+ strategy.

The project implementation has stopped during several months due to the outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia, because of restrictions of circulation of persons imposed by the Government of Liberia, which did not allow the project implementing staff members to get access to the project sites.

(17) PD 528/08 Rev.1 (F) Towards Sustainable Indigenous Mahogany Timber Production in Ghana: Phase II, Refining the Silvicultural "Tool Kit" and Practical Training for Industrial-Foresters and Community Farmers

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	775,114
ITTO Budget:		US\$	465,264
Government of Japan:	US\$	445,264	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	20,000	
Government of Ghana:		US\$	147,150
Michigan Technological University:		US\$	101,500
SAMARTEX:		US\$	61,200
Implementing Agency:	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2009		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2010 / 48 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension: April 2015 (NOLF.14-0126)		

The project was approved under Spring 2009 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system put in place, as there is no longer a Council Session organized in spring, and it was fully financed at the Forty-fifth Session of the Council in Yokohama, in November 2009. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 5 April 2010. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 8 April 2010. A project extension was granted until April 2015, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

The project intends to improve the sustainability of indigenous mahogany in Ghana by developing superior mahoganies that are ecologically adapted and insect tolerant and expand the collaboration with industrial and community tree farmers. It specifically intends to refine the mahogany silvicultural "Tool Kit" in order to improve the ability to produce economically viable indigenous mahogany in mixed plantations and to transfer this technology to Ghana's key industrial partners and community trees growers via a practical "*How to Cultivate Indigenous Mahoganies in Plantations*" manual.

The project has been contributing to reviving the interest of community farmers and other tree growers to engage in planting of indigenous tree species like Mahogany. Activities implemented by this project have proved that Mahogany species have an acceptable growth in forest plantations established for trial purpose by the project. The Forestry Commission of Ghana has expressed interest in the findings of this project regarding the utilization of Mahogany species in forest rehabilitation activities in Ghana.

No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the Executing Agency (FORIG) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities have been completed regarding the refining of the mahogany silvicultural "Tool Kit" in order to improve the ability to produce economically viable indigenous mahogany in mixed plantations and to transfer this technology to Ghana's key industrial partners and community trees growers via a practical "*How to Cultivate Indigenous Mahoganies in Plantations*" manual.

(18) PD 530/08 Rev.3 (F) Phase II of ITTO Project [PD 30/97 Rev.6 (F)] Management of Forests Established through Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests by Local Communities in Ghana

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	642,534
ITTO Budget:		US\$	569,665
Government of Japan:	US\$	569,665	
Government of Ghana (in kind):		US\$	72,869

Implementing Agency: Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2010

Starting Date and Duration: March 2012 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First project extension: until March 2016

This project was approved under Autumn 2010 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but it was fully funded during the 47th ITTC Session in December 2010, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. The Project Agreement has been signed by the parties in March 2012. The project implementation started in March 2012, after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds. A project extension was granted until March 2016, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate yearly plan of operation and associated budget.

The ex-post evaluation of the completed project PD 30/97 Rev.6 (F) "*Rehabilitating Degraded Forests through Collaboration with Local Communities (Ghana)*", commissioned by ITTO in November 2007, recommended the implementation of a second phase for the consolidation of the project achievements regarding the use of indigenous species for the rehabilitation and restoration of degraded and secondary tropical forests.

The project objective is to contribute to rural livelihood by improving benefits from forests established by local communities through rehabilitation of degraded forests. Specifically, it intends to develop models and identify strategies and use them for management of forests established by local communities through rehabilitation of degraded lands to enhance biodiversity conservation, provision of goods and services and also determine mechanisms for payment of the services to ensure improve livelihood of local communities.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project online monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- The Executing Agency (FORIG) has continued to collect data in the field and during the community meetings in order to prepare the benefit sharing document for each community. Each participating farmer was registered for the different number of years that he/she has been engaged in these plantation activities. A cumulative total of 881 registrations was initiated for farmers in six villages (Ntabene, Twumkrom and Abonsrakrom in the Pamu-Berekum Forest Reserve in Dormaa District; Nsugunsua in the Afrensu-Brohoma Forest Reserve in Offinso District; Olantan and Ahenkwa in the Southern Scarp Forest Reserve in Begoro District). The final document prepared as the benefit sharing document include: i) the contract document and ii) a technical annex document printed on special paper that contains information about the name of the farmer, passport size photograph of the farmer, name of community, forest plantation plot size, a map of the forest plantation plot, species planted and year of planting. These documents prepared for the participating farmers in each of the six abovementioned communities are produced in six copies each;
- The Executing Agency has been sensitizing the appropriate persons for the achievement of the remaining steps to complete this work of registration process: i) the signing of the contract and technical annex document at the level traditional Chiefs and/or landowners in each of the abovementioned

- Districts (Begoro, Dormaa and Offinso), ii) the signing of these documents at the Ghana Forestry Commission head office in Accra, and iii) distribution of signed documents to relevant farmers;
- Land use maps of the three abovementioned forest reserves were developed using: i) LandSat 2014, 2010 and 2000 images; ii) 2014 MODIS NDVI products; iii) Topographic map of the study area; iv) GPS and digital camera; v) Software: ERDAS Imagine 9.2, ARCGIS9.2 and vi) MS Excel. The planted areas for the various communities were surveyed through the help of the community leaders. These were converted into shape files and overlaid on the land use map for the three time point to establish the changes that have occurred over the twenty year period. Image classification was done, using maximum likelihood algorithm in order to map out the land use classes in these three forest reserves. The results were imported into ArcGIS to generate the classification of land use map based on local knowledge and prevailing land use categories in the area with inputs and recommendations from the Draft Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) report commissioned by the Climate Change Unit of the Forestry Commission of Ghana. The land use map of the current year was validated through a field visit and community interaction, supported by the Google Earth software. Firstly, the map was sent to the communities for discussion on its conformity with the existing land use categorization in the study area. Secondly, Google Earth software was used to assess the accuracy since it has high resolution and very accurate representation of the land cover;
 - The Executing Agency has continued to motivate farmers in the tree planting process by supplying them with various logistics and materials, while providing appropriate technical support to communities for the production of seedlings of the timber trees to be used for the establishment of rehabilitation forest plantations;

The implementation of this project has contributed to address the initial difficulties encountered by farmers with Resource Support Management Center (RSMC) staff for the forest plantations registration. However, the collaborative work between the project team and the RSMC District Forest Managers through their involvement in the project implementation has greatly helped to resolve these challenges. For instance, the RSMC Technical Officers and the farmer leaders were closely collaborating for a participatory demarcation of the boundaries of forest plantation plots with the GPS coordinates used for the preparation of the digital maps of these plots. Therefore, the project implementation further helped farmers to understand the essence of the need to register these forest plantation plots and what they should be doing to ensure that they get the desired benefits from these forest plantation plots in future, in accordance with relevant Ghanaian regulations.

(19) PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) Encouraging Customary Landowners in the Lowlands of Central Province (PNG) to Reforest Their Grasslands with High Value Trees

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	828,576
ITTO Budget:		US\$	644,814
Government of Japan:	US\$	644,814	
Government of PNG:		US\$	183,762
Implementing Agency:	Papua New Guinea Forest Authority		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLV, Nov.2009, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	January 2012 / 36 months First extension until December 2015 (Ref. No. F15-0004)		

The project was approved in November 2009 and financed in November 2010. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in May 2010. After completing necessary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the Implementing Agency started the implementation of project activities in January 2012. Since the implementation of some activities has been delayed, the project duration was extended until the end of 2015.

The objective of the project is to create a model reforestation framework that encourages customary landowners in the Central Province lowlands to grow high value trees on their grasslands. The successful implementation of the project will lead to the expansion of long-term social, environmental and economic

benefits for landowners in the Central Province lowlands through development of reforestation enterprises to promote an appropriate set of business models and production systems. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) will be a focal species to be promoted through a range of model business arrangements and production systems. The expected outputs of the project include: a reforestation awareness programme is in operation for landowners and the wider community in Central Province; a business training & support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises; an agro-forestry training & support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises; and a distribution system is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises with agro-forestry stock and materials.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the Project Steering Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: A reforestation awareness programme is in operation for landowners and the wider community

- Awareness activities are continuously undertaking with other tasks on the ground with three landowner ILG's. Three wider communities (Gamoga, Vaivai & Barakau) adjacent to the Gomore project site have received reforestation awareness.
- Progress on reforestation arrangements continues with the engagement of the 'Community Involvement Specialist (CIS) at two different periods, undertaking household surveys and interviews in Gomore project site.
- Three (3) hectares of land have already been planted with Teak (*Tectona grandis*). The teak stumps are growing and are between six (6) and ten (10) months of age. An audit of the growing seedlings is to be conducted at the planted site to verify their survival rates.

Output 2: A business training and support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises.

- After a business training in 2012, entrepreneurs are operating their respective micro-small enterprises at Gomore village. High school students are currently applying the Know About Business (KAB) module/syllabus at the respective pilot Secondary Schools - Kwikila.
- Small Business Development Centre (SBDC) has completed a training course. Participants/entrepreneurs are consulting the respective SBDC officers for assistance with developing their business plans.

Output 3: An (agro) forestry training and support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises.

- Materials for this task have been collected, compiled and awaiting graphic design specialist's input. A workshop on formulating an (agro) forestry handbook/toolkit/information kit is planned.
- A food processing training on "How to make fruit Jam" using ripe pawpaw and "how to make banana chips" were conducted twice (April & June) with thirty nine (39) participants. A vegetable production "on-farm" training was also conducted.
- New materials required for developing the agro-forestry information service are continuously being collected. Numerous articles, pamphlets, notes produced previously are held in libraries and are to be accessed, identified and used for such purpose.

Output 4: A distribution system is in operation providing (agro) forestry stock and materials for reforestation enterprises.

- Previously established Clonal Seed Orchard (Mt. Lawes & Kuriva) and Seed Production units around the teak growing regions of the country are used as the major seed supply base for the establishment of new Teak plantings in the grassland areas of the country.
- PNGFRI research team collected truncheons from the clonal orchard for future establishment of an orchard at Kuriva Project site.
- A Resource Center/Distribution Center is to be established at the Gomore Project site on the Garoma Roasi ILG land. The construction of the centre building is awaiting consultation amongst the 3 ILGs, prior to work starting at Vaura.

(20) PD 563/09 Rev.5 (F) Community-Based Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed Sarawak, Malaysia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	666,710
ITTO Budget:		US\$	73,710
APFNet	US\$	460,000	
Government of Malaysia		US\$	133,000
Implementing Agency:	Forest Department of Sarawak		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2011		
Starting Date and Duration:	September 2015 / 24 months		

The project was approved under 2011 Spring Project Cycle. APFNet has committed to provide its financial support for the implementation of the project under the MOU between ITTO and APFNet on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management. The project agreement between APFNet, ITTO and Sarawak Forest Department was finalized on 23 March 2015 with a launching ceremony of the project in Miri, Sarawak which was attended by Executive Director of ITTO, Executive Director of APFNet and Minister of Planning and Resource Management Sarawak II. This project agreement specifies the delivery of APFNet's financial contribution. After concluding the necessary administrative arrangements including the annual work plan for the first year based on APFNet guidelines, the project became operational in September 2015. In project implementation, ITTO will be supervising the progress of implementing the project activities as the supervisory agency and providing all necessary assistance to the Executing Agency to ensure effective and successful implementation of the project.

The development objective of the project aims to promote sustainable forest management in Sungai Medehit Watershed through community capacity building, innovative operational model demonstration and establishing a new governance mechanism on community development. Sungai Medihit catchment is located in Ulu Limbang Division, north Sarawak in a remote and hilly 35,400 ha where the Kelabit and Penan indigenous communities subsist on shifting agriculture and resources collected from increasingly disturbed forests. The specific objective of the project is: to improve sustainable forest management through rational forest management plans, applying innovative forest management techniques and establishing effective forest management mechanisms; to enhance the communities' capacity for sustainable forest management and livelihood development; and to improve the community living conditions by renovating the service infrastructure. The project beneficiary groups are Kelabit men and women of Long Napir and the Penan men and women of Kampong Bahagia. The beneficiaries will gain new insights into ways to sustainably manage the catchment resources for their own benefit.

Since the commencement of the project on 1 September 2015, the implementation of project activities includes: setting up and training a community baseline survey team to carry out surveys of forest resources, biodiversity, traditional culture and socio-economic development; community forest management planning; and establishing participatory community forest management mechanisms.

(21) PD 577/10 Rev.1 (F) Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos (Phase III)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Grand Total Budget:		US\$	\$2,619,441
Total ITTO Budget:		US\$	2,051,039
Government of Japan (through JICA)	US\$	2,051,039	
Government of Thailand:		US\$	339,552

Government of Cambodia:	US\$	228,850
Implementing Agency:	Royal Forest Department (main agency) (Thailand) Forestry Administration (Cambodia)	
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2010	
Starting Date and Duration:	August 2012 / 36 months	

The project was approved under Autumn 2010 Project Cycle and financed at the ITTC Session XLVI in November 2010 under the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand (RFD), the Cambodia Forestry Administration and ITTO in May 2012 after concluding a long internal procedure of the government of Thailand relating to signing international project agreements. The project became operational in August 2012.

The development objective of the project aiming at conserving transboundary biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex situated between Thailand, Cambodia and Lao PDR in a framework of the trans-boundary biodiversity conservation area (TBCA). The protected areas of the Emerald Triangle comprise habitats of a diversity of wildlife species. Large species, such as the wild elephant, banteng and tiger, are observed along the national borders and seasonally migrate across the tri-national boundaries. The Emerald Triangle has some of the most extensive unfragmented natural forests in Southeast Asia containing large numbers of globally threatened species as a last refuge for sixteen "critically Endangered" and "Endangered" species from the IUNC Red List. Specifically, the project aims to strengthen the protection of transboundary habitats of the protected wide-ranging wildlife species in the Emerald Triangle.

The 5th Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was organized on 22 February 2015 in Ubon Rachathani province, Thailand while the 6th PSC meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 24 July 2015. The meetings provided guidance to the refinement of the project activities in line with the common vision for long-term management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex that was prepared by the project. The 6th PSC meeting endorsed the timing for organizing the regional conference on biodiversity conservation in tropical forests in the first quarter of 2016 during the 'no cost' extension of the project. Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report submitted in July 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

Cambodian component:

- An assessment of the 2014 forest cover in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest and distribution of wildlife and biodiversity is under way. A technical report and mapping of the distribution of landmark wildlife species is under review for a forthcoming ITTO-CBD technical publication on conserving transboundary biodiversity in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex.
- Botanical surveys have been conducted and 10 species of orchids have been collected from the Preah Vihear Protected Forest to assess the feasibility of breeding each of those species at the project's nursery.
- Law enforcement patrols to reduce incidences of illegal forest activities in target sites in the Preah Vihear Protected Forest were conducted on a regular basis in cooperation with military police and provincial military officers.
- Consultations on land use planning, forest management planning, wildlife protection and law enforcement were organized with local communities, commune councils and other local authorities.
- Trainings for targeting local communities were conducted to improve tree planting skills, the establishment of home gardens and integrated agroforestry systems, as well as emerging opportunities for nature-based tourism development, especially at ancient temples located in and around the Preah Vihear Protected Forest, while awareness training meetings were organized to discuss forest fire prevention, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and REDD+.
- Ten financial assistantships were provided to students of the Forestry Faculty of the Royal University of Agriculture to prepare undergraduate theses required to obtain their bachelor degrees. The support extended to the mentoring of fieldwork in conducting studies of nature-

based tourism, wildlife conservation, forest land use and community agroforestry practices in and around the Preah Vihear Protected Forest.

- Continued agroforestry demonstrations, including training and consultations on raising chickens and cows, as well as promotion of integrated agricultural systems, the production of compost fertilizers to improve agricultural yields and the provision of seeds for home gardens.

Thai component:

- Project outputs on wildlife resources and GIS modeling and research on the livelihood improvement of the communities supported by the project were disseminated to key stakeholders on 23-24 April 2015 in Khong Cheam District, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand.
- Continue updating and maintaining the information system and field data collection for GIS and wildlife research, and the assessment of the results of the integrated conservation development activities for the targeting communities.
- Trainings in cooperation with forest protection units in the project area on forest protection and effective patrolling were organized regularly to prevent wildlife poaching, illegal logging, illegal trading and collection of wild plants.
- Meetings for livelihood improvement activities were organized during February-March 2015 in order to follow up the establishment of a nursery and a tissue culture lab.
- Training Workshops on nursery seedling production and micro-techniques for multiplication of orchids and ornamental plants were organized five times during Feb-June 2015 in cooperation with Ubon Ratchathani University.
- Meetings with border patrol police were carried out continuously to follow up the outcome from the GIS trainings/workshops.
- Conservation awareness issues were presented in a monthly meeting of elementary schools boards in the project area. School drawing contests and exhibitions of conservation were organized.
- Two technical reports were uploaded on the ITTO website: “Land use change and wildlife distribution modeling in the Emerald Triangle Forest Complex” at http://www.itto.int/files/itto_project_db_input/2968/Technical/GIS%20Report%20ebook-Landuse%20change%20&%20Wiledlife%20Distribution%20modelling%20in%20the%20ETFC.pdf; and “Wildlife resources in the Emerald Triangle Protected Forest Complex between Thailand and Lao PDR” at http://www.itto.int/files/itto_project_db_input/2968/Technical/Wildlife%20Resources%20in%20ETPFC%20between%20Thailand%20&%20LAO%20PDR.pdf.
- The Pha Taem Protected Forests Complex Management Plan has been revised by incorporating research outcome. This Revised Management Plan is under review by RFD.

(22) PD 581/10 Rev.2 (F) Establishing a Geographic Information System for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Areas of Togo

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	565 523
ITTO Budget:		US\$	345,840
Government of Japan:	US\$	345,840	
Government of Togo:		US\$	219 683
Implementing Agency:	Office de développement et d'exploitation des forêts (ODEF)		
Period of Approval:	November 2011		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2013 / 36 months		

The project was approved under Autumn 2011 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012. The Project Agreement has been signed by the parties in January 2013. The project implementation started in April 2011, after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO.

This project aims to contribute to the optimization of forestry potential and sustainable management of forest areas in Togo. It specifically intends to improve the management of forest geo-spatial in Togo. The project expected outputs are: (1) The collection and processing of forest sector data are based on the use of modern equipment and methodology; (2) Stakeholders trained in the use of forestry GIS do make use of the skills they have acquired; and (3) A system of decentralized geo-spatial information management for forests is in place.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project online monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- Additional special training workshops have been carried out, after the acquisition of the computer equipment and materials which have been installed in ODEF's offices in Lomé and in other regions of Togo. The aim was to get a larger number of persons trained on the utilization of softwares dealing with the management of database, geographical information system (GIS), as well as on the mapping process with ArcGis and basic elements of statistics, etc. Therefore, it could be possible to avoid being in the position of lack of qualified staff members in the Togolese forest-related institutions when a turnover of personnel is undertaken for legal administrative reasons;
- Draft map of the Gazetted Forest of Sarkai prepared as a pilot case regarding the utilization of the computer equipment and materials, as well as the use of the software ArcGIS, by trained ODEF staff members based in Lomé and other important cities of Togo, to be part of the network being established through the implementation of this project, in collaboration with other relevant institutions in Togo; and
- The basis of the network for the centralized management of forest-related data has been established with the system put in place through the implementation of this project, in view of promoting the sustainable management of forests in Togo.

(23) PD 601/11 Rev.3 (F) Strengthening Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation in the Biosphere Reserve of Northwestern Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	958,219.60
ITTO Budget:		US\$	496,289.60
Regional Governments of Tumbes and Piura:	US\$	386,300.00	
MDA:		US\$	75,630.00
Implementing Agency:	MDA		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2012		
Starting Date and Duration:	November 2014 / 24 months		

This project was approved under the Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system put in place, and was fully financed under the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity at the Forty-ninth Session in November 2013 at Libreville, Gabon. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in September 2014. The first installment of funds was transferred in November 2014, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat.

Mangrove forests constitute one of the most vulnerable ecosystems to climate change, while at the same time they are one of the ecosystems that can sequester and store the highest volumes of carbon, and while the National System for Natural Protected Areas (SINANPE) has contributed to the sustainability of this ecosystem by establishing the National Sanctuary of Tumbes Mangroves (Santuario Nacional de los Manglares de Tumbes – SNLMT), there is an insufficient number of 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 and to the loss of biodiversity.

In order to address this situation, this project 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 and conservation in the regions of Tumbes and Piura through the: 1) Adequate use of legal powers by regional and local governments for the conservation of mangrove forests; 2) Improved level of forest administration and management so as to preserve mangrove ecosystems; and 3) Financial sustainability strategies for mangrove forests developed and under implementation.

The main project outcomes expected to be achieved upon project completion are: (i) The management capacity for the conservation of mangrove forests in two (2) regional governments and two (2) municipalities will have been strengthened; (ii) three (3) protected areas will have been established: the Mangrove /Dry Forest Biological Corridor, the San Pedro de Vice Mangrove Forest and the New Vichayal Mangrove Forest; (iii) the management efficiency of the National Sanctuary of Tumbes Mangroves (SNLMT) will have been improved; (iv) the appropriate use of resources (forest and hydrobiological resources) in mangrove forests will have been promoted through the implementation of 10 sub-projects for sustainable economic activities, and (v) two (2) financial mechanisms will have been promoted so as to contribute to the sustainability of mangrove forests.

Since project inception in November 2014 and in accordance with the project's first recent progress report submitted in July 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: Adequate use of legal powers by regional and local governments for the conservation of mangrove forests

- Several inter-institutional meetings have been held between the regional and local governments, universities, SERNANP, PRONANP and MDA to discuss the training need of regional and local government officers in environmental standards and regulations. Based on these meetings, to date the National University of Tumbes has entered into an agreement to develop a post-graduate diploma in "Participatory Environmental Management for the Conservation of Mangroves and Dry Forests". The list of participants has already been drawn and it is expected to commence shortly;
- Coordination has been initiated with competent authorities for the legal recognition of 3 new protected areas in mangrove ecosystems: the Tumbes Mangrove Ecosystem – Dry Forest Biological Corridor, and the San Pedro de Vice Mangrove Forest and Mangrove Forest of Vichayal in the Department of Piura.

Output 2: Improved level of forest administration and management so as to preserve mangrove ecosystems

- The master plan for the management of the National Sanctuary of Tumbes Mangroves has been updated in a participatory manner via workshops with all stakeholders involved and a regional forum has been planned for the world environment day;
- Several coordination meetings with the local governments of Corrales, Zarumilla and Aguas Verdes in Tumbes and Vice in Piura have been initiated for the Implementation of participatory management mechanisms in the new protected mangrove areas to be created; and
- A work plan is being developed to train local communities in sustainable management and utilization techniques for the natural resources of mangrove ecosystems.

Output 3: Financial sustainability strategies for mangrove forests developed and under implementation

- Assistance is being provided to the local communities in developing revenue-raising mechanisms to contribute to mangrove forest sustainability via small business plans. 6 project profiles have already been developed to date.

The Project's first Steering Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 2015.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	616,163
ITTO Budget:		US\$	350,402
Government of Japan:	US\$	300,402	
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
WWF - Panama:		US\$	101,961
ANAM:		US\$	163,800
Implementing Agency:	WWW – PANAMA OFFICE		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2012		
Starting Date and Duration:	December 2014 / 24 months		

This project was approved under the Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system put in place, and full financing for its implementation was pledged at the Forty-ninth Session in November 2013 at Libreville, Gabon. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in December 2014. The first installment of funds was transferred in January 2015, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat.

This project envisages following up on one of the outputs of ITTO-financed project PD 405/06 Rev.3 (F): "Extending the area under sustainable forest management in the forest lands of the Emberá-Wounaan Comarca, Darien, Panama", which characterized and described institutional, administrative and socioeconomic factors promoting illegal logging in the region of Darien and, as a result, produced a framework document on guidelines and strategies requiring immediate institutional action to counteract incremental forest degradation, which leads to illegal logging related practices and other unsustainable activities. Thus, it aims to support the implementation of the Strategy for Illegal Logging Prevention and Control, as the problem of illegal logging has become out of control. Its negative effects not only hinder any forest land management initiatives through unfair price competition and non-payment of stumpage fees but, most importantly, lead to a drastic reduction of the forest cover and continued loss of biodiversity in the country, including in the Darien National Park and other protected areas.

Expected project outcomes at the macro level are: (i) Establishment of an institutional and governance framework for illegal logging prevention and control based on a cross-sectoral agreement and the adjustment of harvesting permits to the size of forest management units (FMU), the allocation of technical and legal responsibilities to forest professionals (forest reGENCY system) and the revision of harvesting standards by local governments (Comarcas and Municipalities); (ii) Incorporation of an efficient timber flow monitoring and control mechanism, including: a) origin and legality; b) rotational forest permit verification systems; c) checking of timber volumes both at processing centers and transport points; d) development of software for production and transport control; and e) establishment of a traceability and chain of custody system; (iii) Development of a proposal on financial mechanisms to promote responsible forest management and trade in the natural forests of Panama by: a) exploring various incentive mechanisms; and b) promoting responsible purchasing policies as an incentive for stakeholders involved in sustainable forest management practices; (iv) Development of a responsible purchasing campaign so as to raise awareness on the administrative and institutional provisions of the Strategy and promote the certificate of origin "*Darién Responsable*" (*Responsible Darien*) for timber products and by-products from forests under good management practices in the region of Darien.

Since project inception in January 2015 and in accordance with the project's first progress report submitted in July 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: An institutional governance strategy for the prevention and control of illegal logging in the region of Darien adopted by multiple social, institutional and private stakeholders.

- Meetings are being promoted with the participation of various private and public social stakeholders on the significance of adopting a strategy and reaching agreements to reduce illegal logging and on factors influencing and affecting forest goods and services;
- Major gaps in government standards and regulations as well as in governance structures are being identified, with a view towards proposing a new forestry law; and
- An institutional resolution created the National Committee on Forest Management so as to facilitate and promote the adoption of mechanisms for illegal logging control and enhance forest governance and accountability levels.

Output 2: Traceability and chain-of-custody system for verification of origin and movement of timber and timber products from production sites to final processing centers.

- A chain-of-custody system for timber utilizing bar codes/chips is currently being promoted among authorities, forest industries and communities.

Output 3: A streamlined system (and formats) for the issuing of forest harvesting permits, and development of a forest regency scheme.

- Forest activities are being characterized and arranged by operation size so as to identify fast-track mechanisms for the issuing of harvesting permits;
- A workshop on the provisions for the issuing of harvesting permits was organized to the benefit of 37 participants from the government, forestry sector and forest communities; and
- A regency system for the co-enforcement of standards and regulations established by government agencies with the participation of the national association of forest professionals has been developed but currently has several deficiencies that are being assessed in order to improve the system. Currently 41 forest technicians took the regency course, but only 4 have submitted the documentation required to be accredited.

Output 4: Two fully equipped checkpoints installed at major ports and road points.

- The timber flows in the Darien Region were characterized and quantified; and
- Based on the aforementioned study, the Ministry of Environment thought it best to establish 5 fixed and 19 mobile checkpoints in the Bayano and Darien Sub-regions. The project provided these checkpoints with communication systems and timber chain-of-custody and traceability software. These checkpoints became operational during the 2015 logging season in Darien.

Output 5: Economic and market mechanisms system established for producers committed to sustainable forest management.

- A communication and outreach strategy for the promotion of timber in responsible markets, including development of responsible purchasing awareness campaign and production of outreach materials, has been designed and further submitted to the Ministry of Environment for its approval, which is expected shortly.

The project is on track.

(25) PD 617/11 Rev.4 (F) Promoting Biodiversity Conservation in Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) as the Trans-boundary Ecosystem between Indonesia and State of Sarawak Malaysia - Phase III (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,214,479
ITTO Budget:		US\$	941,559
Government of Japan:	US\$	84,661	
Government of Japan (MoFA)	US\$	350,000	
Government of Switzerland	US\$	503,486	
Government USA	US\$	3,412	

Government of Indonesia	US\$	272,920
Implementing Agency:	Betung Kerihun National (BKNP), Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA), Ministry of Forestry (MOF)	
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLVII, Nov.2011, La Antigua, Guatemala,	
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2013 / 48 months	

The project was approved under Autumn 2011 Project Cycle and was partially financed at ITTC 47 in November 2011 and fully financed at ITTC 48 in November 2012 under the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity. The project agreement was duly signed in September 2013. After finalizing the yearly plans of operation and the inception report, the project commenced in October 2013.

The main objective of the project is to promote the sustainable conservation management of the Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) established in 1992 covering around 800,000 ha, as a transboundary ecosystem between west Kalimantan, Indonesia and Sarawak, Malaysia. The project's transboundary conservation cooperation is focused with the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) and the Batang Ai National Park (BANP) in Sarawak which are adjacent to BKNP in west Kalimantan, Indonesia. 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) improved sustainable livelihoods of the local communities within and surrounding BKNP.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- Technical Arrangement (TA) for the establishment of Joint Technical Task Force (JTTF) between Indonesia and Malaysia is currently under scrutiny of concerned Malaysia authority before officially signed by the parties; the TA was jointly formulated by BKNP, LEWS, and BANP officials.
- Intensive consultation with existing partners, i.e., ADB, TFCA, WWF Indonesia and GIZ, and with HOB Initiative has been carried out to strengthen the partnership.
- Existing strategic plan for orangutan conservation is under review by BKNP, LEWS, and BANP professionals through exchange of information and visit as one of the activities to be jointly implemented by Indonesia and Malaysia.
- Technical reports on Activities 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, and 3.2 have been published in both Bahasa and English and uploaded to the project's Web.
- Conduct of a feasibility study on development of REDD+ project has been postponed to Year 3 due mainly to on-going changes of policy direction on the management of climate change program by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
- Issue on community-based ecotourism development was deeply reviewed by the national consultant and key stakeholders. Ecotourism development requires long-term commitment by stakeholders of the Park with appropriate infrastructures.
- Forest patrolling is continuing. The Park authority and partners recognized a need to involve local communities in the task for which training of selected community leaders and members on forest patrolling is indispensable.
- Outreach program is progressing well through application of Web and Facebook, involvement of professional journalists and participation in domestic as well as international events in biodiversity conservation.

(26) PD 635/12 Rev.2 (F) Buffer Zone Management for Pulong Tau National Park with Involvement of Local Communities in Management, Sarawak, Malaysia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	\$1,421,925
ITTO Budget:		US\$	517,450
Government of Japan:	US\$	242,690	
JLIA	US\$	50,000	
Government Switzerland	US\$	224,760	
Government of Malaysia		US\$	904,475
Implementing Agency:	Forest Department of Sarawak		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLVIII, Nov.2012, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	August 2014 / 24 months		

This project was approved under Autumn 2012 Project Cycle and financed at the Forty-eighth Session of the ITTC held in November 2012. The draft project agreement was sent to the Ministry of Primary Industries and Commodities of Malaysia in January 2013. The project agreement was duly signed in August 2014. The Executing Agency submitted the Inception Report with a yearly plan of operation (YPO) for the first year and started the implementation of project activities in August 2014.

The development objective of this project is to contribute to the integrated development of buffer zone for environmental conservation and the uplift of livelihoods of indigenous communities. The specific objective is to secure forests in the buffer zone for the use by indigenous communities and to strengthen the protection of Pulong Tau National Park (PTNP). These objectives will be achieved through the establishment of 6,000 ha of buffer zone and the security of its forest resource base to meet the needs of indigenous communities. The project objectives and outputs will be met through the integrated buffer zone management, training, and active involvement of primary and secondary stakeholders, including indigenous communities. The project is being carried out by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) through its Community Service Initiative Unit (CSIU).

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee, the project has been progressing in the following areas according to the progress reports, as well as the monthly highlights submitted through the on-line monitoring system (OLMS):

- The final gazette for the second extension of PTNP was processed by the Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment of the State of Sarawak;
- Ecological and flora survey was conducted to collect baseline data on forest types and biodiversity resources for conservation and local use;
- Faunal survey on ground mammals, birds and insects was conducted using line transects and camera traps to identify the species to be protected;
- Survey on communal forests was conducted to identify the forest areas to be claimed by the indigenous communities and to collect information on timber resource, NTFP and game animals;
- Visit to the successful tagang project, as well as the agricultural park and handicraft centre in Sabah, was carried out; and
- Preparatory work for the application of birth certificates and identity cards was conducted.

The activity to construct field centre cum rangers' station at Long Manau was withdrawn due to the unexpected land claim by indigenous families, and the budget was reallocated for the enhancement of trainings in accordance with the recommendations and endorsement from the Project Steering Committee at its first meeting held on 23 March 2015. Except for the withdrawal of this particular activity, the project has been making a steady progress with the support from stakeholders.

(27) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	564,037
ITTO Budget:		US\$	435,187
Government of Japan:	US\$	435,187	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	128,850
Implementing Agency:	Manado Forestry Research Institute (MFRI), Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	TBD / 36 months		

The project was approved under Spring 2013 Project Cycle but was financed at ITTC 50 in November 2014. The project agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in June 2015. The Executing Agency is in the process of finalizing all administrative arrangements including appointment of project personnel and preparation of an inception report with a detailed yearly plans of operation.

In northern Sulawesi, Indonesia, there is an increasing demand for Cempaka wood (*Elmerrillia ovalis* (Miq.) Dandy) as this wood has been used as raw materials for traditional houses (knocked down housing) which has proven against natural disasters. However, the supply of Cempaka wood has been reduced dramatically and the wood industry in the North Sulawesi has faced a big challenge with declined supply of Cempaka wood. In light of the importance of improving sustainable development of Cempaka wood, the project is designed to promote sustainable forest management of Cempaka trees in north Sulawesi by addressing the social, environmental and economic sustainability. The specific objective of the project is to facilitate the conservation and plantations of Cempaka trees with the involvement of local communities in north Sulawesi. The project activities include: establishing a 30 ha of a demonstration plot using improved silviculture techniques in three districts; formulating policy on incentives for communities to support Cempaka conservation; and establishment of Cempaka seed certification systems in north Sulawesi. The expected outputs of the project include: (i) enhanced community capacity in Cempaka plantation development; (ii) increased participatory planting of Cempaka by local community; and (iii) formulated an integrated policy on Cempaka conservation.

(28) PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable, Mixed and Pure Forest Plantation Development in the Transitional Zone of Ghana's Biakoye District Assembly, Employing Poverty Reduction Strategies (Ghana)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	324,088
ITTO Budget:		US\$	245,272
Government of Japan:	US\$	245,272	
Government of Togo:		US\$	78,816
Implementing Agency:	PICODEV-Ghana		
Period of Approval:	April 2012		
Starting Date and Duration:	May 2013 / 24 months		

The 24-month project was approved under Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. The Project Agreement had been signed by the

parties in January 2013. The project initiated implementation in May 2013 following the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds.

The project aims at contributing to the sustained socio-economic development and environmental protection in the Biakoye area in Ghana's Volta Region, through the restoration of forest degraded lands with precious indigenous timber species and exotic timber species, with the involvement of local communities. It specifically intends to initiate a participatory poverty alleviation approach (innovative value adding cassava processing and sale) through a sustainable forest enrichment and plantation development using tropical timber species mixed with exotic species.

No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the Executing Agency (PICODEV-Ghana) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities have been completed in the Biakoye project target area in Ghana's Volta Region.

(29) PD 668/12 Rev.1 (F) Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity in the Tacaná Volcano and Its Range of Influence in Mexico and Guatemala

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	949,491.90
ITTO Budget:		US\$	641,638.80
Government of Japan:	US\$	441,638.80	
Government of USA:	US\$	200,000.00	
HSI :		US\$	67,696.80
Municipalities (approx. amount in kind)		US\$	26,560.00
Forest Agencies (CONAFOR, CONANP, CONAP and INAB) (in kind)		US\$	213,596.30
Implementing Agency:	HELVETAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION (HSI)		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLVIII, November 2012, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2014 / 24 months		

The Council approved the project at its Forty-eighth Session in November 2012 at Yokohama and full financing for its implementation was pledged under the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity at that same session. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed by the Executing Agency, the Governments of Guatemala and Mexico and ITTO in December 2013. The first installment of funds was transferred at the end of June 2014, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of an inception report, a detailed work plan, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation was about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The project's first Steering Committee meeting was held in San Marcos, Guatemala in early September 2014, and the second in met at Tapachula, Mexico. Both meetings counted with the full participation of both Mexican and Guatemalan stakeholders, in particular CONAFOR, CONANP, CONAP, INAB and local governments.

Guatemala and Mexico share the Tacaná Volcano border area which straddles the Department of San Marcos and the State of Chiapas respectively, an area in the Mesoamerican Biodiversity Corridor, featuring biological richness and ecotourism potential although most of the population lives in poverty, using natural resources 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 the project is to contribute to improving living standards for 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, upgrade of the legal framework of Protected Areas and enhancement of collaboration between both countries.

Expected outputs are as follows: i) Pilot areas for restoration or conservation have been established in a participatory manner; ii) Pilot projects identified and established with the community, to enhance local livelihood, 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.

Since the Forty-eighth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports submitted in February and August 2015, and the second Project Steering Committee meeting held in September 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: Pilot areas for restoration or conservation have been established in a participatory manner.

- The mapping of restoration/conservation areas and environmental services in the Tacaná Volcano and its range of influence on the Guatemalan and Mexican sides has been completed;
- Priority areas for restoration and conservation have been selected;
- Several workshops have been held within the communities to socialize the restoration and conservation plans; and
- 4 nurseries are in the process of being established to produce seedlings of native species for the restoration areas.

Output 2: Local production and economic initiatives identified and established with the communities to enhance local livelihoods, including: ecotourism, agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems.

- 12 forest goods and services production proposals to enhance livelihoods have been received from the communities, including ecotourism, Design and are in a process of being evaluated;
- Work has been initiated at the inter-institutional level for the improvement of the Binational Hiking Path;
- An meeting to interchange of experiences between tour operators experienced in volcanoes and the Tacana communities took place on the Guatemalan side

Output 3: The technical and legal framework for integrated management in Tacaná Volcano has been updated

- A technical study to reclassify the Tacaná Volcano in Guatemala in close coordination with CONAP has been initiated. Currently the volcanic cone is classified as "Permanent Prohibition Zone" and does not allow any intervention; the intention is to overcome this limitation directly from the regulations governing it.

Output 4: Local communities, Municipal Councils and public agencies share information, make decisions by consensus and are actively involved in the Guatemala – Mexico Binational Cooperation.

- The control and monitoring of areas through training and equipping the rangers has been initiated;
- Baseline and biological monitoring studies are underway; and
- Binational and international cooperation activities are being carried out to share knowledge and expertise among stakeholders.

The project is on track.

(30) PD 673/12 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening the Capacity in Forest Law Enforcement and Governance of the Permanent Forest Estates in Kratie and Mondulhiri Provinces of Cambodia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	\$555,527
ITTO Budget:		US\$	464,033
Government of Japan:	US\$	444,033	
Government of Korea	US\$	20,000	
Government of Cambodia		US\$	91,494
Implementing Agency:	Forest Administration of Cambodia		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLVIII, Nov.2012, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	May 2013 / 36 months		

The project was approved under Autumn 2012 Project Cycle and was financed at ITTC 48 in November 2012. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in January 2013. After completion of all administrative arrangements for the efficient and successful implementation of the project, the project became operational in May 2013.

The project aims specifically at strengthening forest law enforcement in the Permanent Forest Estates (PFEs) of Mondulhiri and Kratie provinces which have been suffered from inadequate capacities in controlling illegal forest activities although the two provinces are among the richest in terms of forest and biodiversity resources. The project will build on a platform of forest law enforcement and governance established in the country with support of many partners. The project's expected outputs are: i) enhanced operational capacity of Forestry Administration in enforcing forest laws in PFEs of Mondulhiri and Kratie provinces; ii) increased support of local communities to law enforcement initiative of Forestry Administration; and iii) promoted collaboration between Forestry Administration and stakeholders.

Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: Enhanced operational capacity of Forestry Administration in enforcing forest laws in the PFEs of Mondulhiri and Kratie provinces

- Updated the two existing technical guidelines for forest law enforcement and developed patrolling guidelines for local community. These guidelines were applied in the training courses.
- A total of 80 Forestry Administration staff was trained on operational of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance. A total of 64 units of equipment and facilities was purchased. Forest Crime Information System was upgraded with 5 computers, including 1 in Phnom Penh, 2 in Kratie province and 2 in Mondulhiri province. The existing Guidelines for Forest Crime Monitoring Case Tracking System were updated.
- A total of 500 copies of booklet on the 2013 forest cover of Kratie and Mondulhiri provinces was produced and disseminated to Kratie and Mondulhiri Forestry Administration (FA) Cantonments to facilitate field operations.
- Created the project's Facebook entitled FA-ITTO FLEG partnership in Mondulhiri and Kratie provinces, Cambodia to share project information.

Output 2: Improved awareness and incentive for local communities in supporting FLEG initiative

- A total of 20 Community Forestry Program sites was visited; a total of 608 participants participated in intensive dialogues to improve their awareness on the importance of FLEG initiatives.
- A total of 27.56 ha of high yield agro-forestry plots was established at 4 sites with 4 small-scale tree nurseries. A total of 101 participants (56 women) attended 4 training courses on agro-forestry and livelihood alternatives.
- A total of 82 community leaders and members in 4 communities forestry was trained on skill needs for implementing forest law enforcement in Kratie and Mondulhiri province.

- Two small extension offices were constructed for community forestry program: one in Kratie province and the other in Mondulkiri province.

Output 3: Promoted collaboration between Forestry Administration and Stakeholders

- Substantial copies of project brochure, calendar, booklet and reports were published and disseminated to stakeholders in the two provinces.
- Forest extension programs were developed and disseminated to Kratie and Mondulkiri Forestry Administration Cantonments.
- A total of 58 forestry administration staff was trained on forestry extension program.
- Two multi-stakeholders forums on forest law enforcement were organized with attendance of a total of 83 participants.

(31) PD 682/13 Rev.1 (F) Development of Quality-of-Governance Standards for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) in Papua New Guinea

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	179,744
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149,744
Government of Japan:	US\$	149,744	
Government of PNG		US\$	30,000

Implementing Agency: Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments (ACSC), University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in close collaboration with PNG Forest Authority

Period of Approval: Spring 2013

Starting Date and Duration: May 2015 / 24 months

The project was approved under 2013 Spring Project Cycle and financed at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement between the University of Southern Queensland (USQ), PNG Forest Authority and ITTO was finalized in November 2014. After concluding all administrative arrangements including a MOU between USQ and PNG Forestry Authority, the project became operation in May 2015.

In light of the need for strengthening the governance of REDD+ in PNG, the project is designed to contribute to good governance of REDD+ in the country so as to facilitate the achievement of climate change mitigation and national development goals through the sustainable management and enhancement of forest resources. Specifically, the project aims to develop a voluntary standard for REDD+ quality-of-governance, which can strengthen governance by guiding and evaluating REDD+ structures and processes at national and sub-national levels. The REDD+ quality-of-governance standard will be developed through a multi-stakeholder process that involves an online survey, face-to-face interviews with key stakeholders, a multi-stakeholder forum workshop, and field-testing at demonstration sites. The project will also analyze the process and outcomes of the research and determine the feasibility of applying such standards regionally and internationally.

Since the commencement of the project in May 2015, key project activities implemented include:

- Key REDD+ stakeholders in PNG were identified and their details were documented for development of a voluntary standard for REDD+ quality-of-governance.
- An online survey was conducted for the key REDD+ stakeholders; draft sub-indicators and verifiers for 11 indicators were developed.
- Face-to-face interviews were conducted on 18-19 May 2015 for nine key REDD+ stakeholders in PNG.
- A two-day national workshop on assessment of forest management and REDD+ governance quality was conducted in Port Moresby on 21-22 May 2015. It was attended by a total of 35 participants representing the national and local governments, civil society, universities,

international and local NGOs, bilateral-aid agencies, community-based organizations, and landowner Groups. The workshop report was posted on ITTO website at http://www.itto.int/files/itto_project_db_input/3067/Technical/Proceedings%20-%20REDD+%20Governance%20Workshop%20in%20PNG.pdf

- A paper on REDD+ governance has been prepared and accepted by the XIV World Forestry Congress (7-11 September 2015, Durban, South Africa).

(32) PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F) Community Based Restoration and Sustainable Management of Vulnerable Forests of the Rewa Delta, Viti Levu, Fiji

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	387,511
ITTO Budget:		US\$	310,576
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	310,576	
Government of Fiji		US\$	76,935
Implementing Agency:	Department of Forest, .Ministry of Fisheries and Forest, Republic of Fiji		
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2015 (expected) / 36 months		

The project was approved in Autumn 2013 and its financing was made at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement regulating project implementation was finalized in June 2015. The Executing Agency is in the process of finalizing administrative arrangements including a detailed yearly plans of operation to ensure the effective implementation of the project. It is expected that the project will commence in October 2015.

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 without any specific policy aligned to a single Government Agency. Excessive resources extraction has resulted in reduction in vegetation area 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 awareness creation on the importance of wetlands; and 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 local communities in the long term.

(33) PD 710/13 Rev.1 (F) Promoting Conservation of Selected High-Value Indigenous Species of Sumatra (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	620,209
ITTO Budget:		US\$	479,976
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	479,976	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	140,233
Implementing Agency:	Forest Research Institute, Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry		
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	January 2015 / 48 months		

The project was approved under Autumn 2013 Project Cycle and was financed at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in July 2014. After completion of the required administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project including a detailed yearly plans of operation, the project commenced in January 2015.

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*), and Sumatran merbau (*Intsia palembanica*). 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, andalás, 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 high-valued indigenous species of Sumatra. The specific objective of the project aims 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. The expected benefits include updated data and information on distribution, the conservation status and protection, and regeneration for selected high-value indigenous species as well as improved socio-economic conditions of the forest-dependent community.

Since the commencement of the project in January 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- Workshop on "Improving Awareness on Conservation of High Value Indigenous Wood Species of Sumatra" was held on April 27, 2015 at Forestry Education and Training Institution, Pekanbaru. It was attended by 60 participants including representatives from local governments, NGOs, universities and private companies. It raised the importance of promoting the conservation of selected high-value indigenous species of Sumatra either in natural habitat (in-situ) or in the ex-situ areas. The workshop report is under finalization.
- Collection and updating of data and information on distribution, population and conservation status of the selected high-value indigenous species is under way and an analysis on potential uses of chemical substance of Sumatran yew (*Taxus sumatrana*) is being carried out.
- A field survey for 15 ha of forest area at the conservation area of PT. Kojo, Duri, Bengkalis District, Riau Province was conducted on 12-15 June 2015 to find wildlings of giam (*Cotylelobium melanoxydon*). A total of 7 trees of giam and 11 trees of kulim (*Schorodocarpus borneensis*) was found; and a total of 574 wildlings of giam was collected.

(34) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	364,942
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149,632
Government of Japan:	US\$	149,632	
APAIC:		US\$	215,310
Implementing Agency:	APAIC – ASOCIACION PRO DESARROLLO AGROINDUSTRIAL DE CAMANA		
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	February 2015 / 24 months		

The project was approved under the Autumn 2013 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system and full financing for its implementation was pledged during the Fiftieth Session in November 2014. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in February 2015. The first installment of funds was transferred in February 2015, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second disbursement of funds was transferred to APAIC in July 2015, after verifying the executing agency's compliance with the conditions established for it.

This small project derived from project PD 583/10 Rev.1 (F), which was implemented to assess the feasibility of restoring arid or sub-humid ecosystems in the southern coastal region of Peru and which has proven to be highly beneficial from an environmental and socioeconomic viewpoint after reforesting 75 hectares with *Caesalpinea spinosa* in *eriaza* (waste) lands that previously had no economic or environmental value. As a result of that project phase, it was possible to develop a new flora and fauna ecosystem of considerable significance and the future outlook of nearly one million hectares in this Peruvian coastal ecosystem has been improved by contributing not only to the socioeconomic development of the region but also to carbon sequestration, increasing CO₂ storage levels from 0 to an average 8-10 Mt/ha/year. This is fully consistent with the concepts and strategies of climate change mitigation and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands.

This project is being implemented in the Province of Camaná, Department of Arequipa, in Southern Peru. Given its ecological, environmental and socioeconomic conditions, this region is highly significant and representative of tropical semi-arid or sub-humid areas in Peru, where social, economic and environmental alternatives need to be adjusted to the shortage of water for both irrigation and human consumption, so as to generate economic income to help improve the living standards of the rural population. The specific objective of the project is to develop guidelines for SFM and agroforestry systems with a view to the rehabilitation of degraded lands in the Peruvian coastal region and develop a technological package that can be used for reforestation with *Caesalpinea spinosa* and agroforestry systems.

Major outcomes to be achieved upon project completion are: i) The consolidation of technical experiences in the management and competitive production of Tara in the southern coastal region of Peru through a high productivity module; ii) The development of a technological package for the management of Tara and associated agroforestry systems; and iii) Guidelines for SFM in Tara plantations and rehabilitation of degraded and *eriaza* lands to be applied throughout the coastal region of Peru.

Since project inception in February 2015 and in accordance with the project's first progress report submitted in July 2015, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: Establishment of high productivity 30-ha module in agroforestry systems associated with Tara (*Caesalpinea spinosa*) plantations

- 30 ha of plots were evaluated and selected: 5 ha at La Joya, 5 at El Pedregal, 10 at Pucchun, and 10 Las Lomas de Atiquipa;
- A detailed inventory is currently being carried out at these plots in order to analyse the general conditions of the plantation or natural forest, the natural ecosystems, biomass, and irrigation and management conditions;
- A rapid rural assessment was carried out and a biophysical and socioeconomic baseline developed based on the former; and
- 10 ha of experimental plantations have been established in Pucchun based on an irrigation system with underground water.

Output 2: Development of technological package that may be replicated in other coastal regions of the Peruvian coast

- Technical and socioeconomic information on Tara plantations is currently being systematized.

Output 3: Development of guidelines for the sustainable management of Tara plantations

- A draft outline for guidelines is being developed.

The project is on track.

(35) PD 740/14 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Management Through REDD+ Mechanisms in Kampong Thom Province (Cambodia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	561,022
ITTO Budget:		US\$	484,792
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	484,792	
Government of Cambodia		US\$	76,230

Implementing Agency: Forest Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: September 2015 / 36 months

The project was approved under Autumn 2014 Project Cycle and was financed at ITTC 50 in November 2014. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in July 2014. A project launching ceremony was held on 23 July 2015 with the participation of key REDD+ stakeholders in the country. After completion of administrative arrangements including the detailed yearly plans of operation and appointment of project personnel, the project became operation in September 2015.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in Kampong Thom province through the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. Its specific objective is to establish the institutionalization of REDD+ activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The project will address the key problem of the limited institutional capacity for promoting REDD+ activities to support sustainable forest management in Kampong Thom province. The project plans to advance REDD+ programmes in Cambodia by building on the experiences of those on-going REDD+ activities to standardize the procedures to meet, in an efficient and effective manner, the technical specifications of REDD+ jurisdictional standards to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The project activities include; provide appropriate incentives to reduce dependence on the unsustainable use of forest resources to local communities, especially those participating in community forestry management activities in the Tomring Forest; and provide REDD+ implementation training to strengthen the capacity of government officials and community members who are expected to assume increasingly important roles in efforts to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The expected outputs of the project include: i) Stakeholder understanding and knowledge of REDD+ improved; ii) Research program on REDD+ in the

Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province developed and implemented; and iii) REDD+ guidelines and training programs strengthened for effective design and implementation of REDD+ activities.

B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

(1) PD 452/07 Rev.5 (F) Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase II (Brazil)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,547,558
ITTO Budget:		US\$	656,630
Government of Japan (MoFA)	US\$	656,630	
EMBRAPA:		US\$	576,807
MMA:		US\$	263,271
IFT:		US\$	50,850
Implementing Agency:	Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (EMBRAPA), Belém, Pará		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2008		

The Council approved the project in Spring 2008. Financing was not allocated at that time, but the Council authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

This project was approved under the Spring 2008 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system put in place. In 2011, the Government of Brazil resubmitted the proposal with a modified budget as Revision 4 and requested it be considered for financing for another period of 20 months. It further resubmitted it with an updated budget as Revision 5 in 2013 and requested it also be considered for another 20 months. Full financing for its implementation was pledged at the Fiftieth Session in November 2014 at Yokohama, Japan. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was forwarded to the Government of Brazil in the third quarter of 2015 for the respective signatures and is expected to be finalized shortly.

This project will build upon the achievements of the completed project PD 57/99 Rev.2 (F) "Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase I" implemented by EMBRAPA. In its first phase, the project developed and validated, in collaboration with two timber enterprises, a set of silvicultural and managerial tools to support enterprises working in the Brazilian Amazon forests in planning, implementing and monitoring its operations to achieve sustained financial benefits under current and foreseeable environmental and social conditions.

The present second-phase project's overall objective is to encourage the adoption of good forest management practices by medium and large scale timber enterprises in the Brazilian Amazon via the transfer of the aforementioned tools being developed. In particular, the project will consolidate the tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) developed in the first phase, build capacity of training centres and universities of the Amazon region to transfer the SFM tools to timber enterprises and government environmental agencies responsible for forest management, evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of transferring the SFM tools to timber enterprises, and disseminate project achievements and products to a large audience of relevant stakeholders.

Major outputs, among others, include: A set of SFM computer tools consolidated; Guidelines to support SFM prepared; Capacity of project collaborators for implementing training of SFM tools strengthened; Project clients trained in the use of SFM tools; Strategies for transfer of SFM tools evaluated; and Technical, social, financial and environmental impacts of changes caused by SFM adoption in selected timber enterprises evaluated.

(2) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	216,162
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149,408
Government of Japan:	US\$	46,504	
Government of USA:	US\$	102,904	
MALEBI / Gov't of Côte d'Ivoire (in kind):		US\$	66,754
Implementing Agency:	MALEBI Association		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2014		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months		

The 24-month project was approved under Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 50th ITTC Session in November 2014, thanks to the generous contribution of the Governments of Japan and USA. The Project Agreement was sent to Cote d'Ivoire for the signing process by the relevant parties, in March 2015. The project implementation will be initiated with the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds, after the signing of the project agreement by all parties, including ITTO Secretariat.

The project intends to contribute to increasing the forest cover of the Ahua Forest Reserve through the involvement of local communities surrounding the forest. It specifically aims at implementing the gradual rehabilitation of the Ahua Forest Reserve with women members of the MALEBI Association, to compensate for the wood they remove and use to produce charcoal.

C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

(1) PD 554/09 Rev.4 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Forests in the Collective Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	692,481
ITTO Budget:		US\$	529,034
Government of Colombia – University of Tolima:	US\$	107,660	
Community Council of the Bajo Calima Black Ethnic Group:	US\$	55,787	
Implementing Agency:	UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLV, November 2009, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months		

The Council approved the project at its Forty-fifth Session in November 2009. Financing was not allocated at that time, but the Council authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state. The Government of Colombia resubmitted the proposal

as Revision 3 in 2013 and further resubmitted it as Revision 4 in 2015, and as such will be considered for financing for an additional period of 20 months.

This proposal originates from a recommendation of Project PD 415/06 Rev.2 (M) "Systematization and Modeling of Economic and Technical Information to Train Professionals Related to the Production, Processing and Marketing of Timber Products". Secondary forests in the collective Afro-Colombian territory of Bajo Calima are situated on the Colombian Pacific plateau bio-geographic region, one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet. The management of these forests, which was under the responsibility of a private forest industry for several decades, was devolved at the end of the last century to the African community descendants through their Community Councils. However, this transfer came about without any training in sustainable forest management for the communities, and therefore a lack of management ensued, resulting in a considerable degradation of the forests in their territory.

Overall, the project proposal aims to contribute to the implementation of management, conservation and restoration programmes for strategic ecosystems in the Pacific region of Colombia, based on enrichment and agroforestry systems established and managed in a sustainable manner. More specifically, it expects to launch a participatory process to achieve sustainable management of secondary forests and collective lands of Bajo Calima in the Republic of Colombia, involving the establishment of a 100-hectare pilot area under sustainable management, and implementing line enrichment and agroforestry systems. Teachers, community leaders and farmers will be trained in community organization, and in administration, use, management and conservation of natural resources. This process will be complemented by a research-action programme executed by undergraduate and graduate students from the University, with special emphasis on environmental services related to climate change.

(2) PD 618/11 Rev.4 (F) Establishment of Spatial Forest Resources Information System (SPA-FRIS) in West Papua Province (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	406,989
ITTO Budget:	US\$	364,878
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	42,111

Implementing Agency: Forest Planning Agency Region XVII, Manokwari (BPKH XVII Manokwari) , Ministry of Forestry

Period of Approval: Rev.3 approval: Autumn 2012
Rev.4 approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in Autumn 2012 and the revised project was approved in Autumn 2014. After this revision process, the project is waiting for financing.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable forest management in West Papua Province, Indonesia where 90% of its area remains as forest but forest-related data and information in local forest agencies are poorly documented under rough geographical conditions and limited transportation infrastructures. The project seeks to establish an internet-based network system to control and monitor forest resources in West Papua Province. The system will enable local forest agencies to make good and reliable decisions on forest planning based on reliable forest maps and related information under "Spatial Forest Resources Information System (SPA-FRIS)". Data and information in remote areas will be easily updated. In order to develop a spatial forest resources information system in West Papua Province, the project activities include gathering spatial and non-spatial data and information from local forest agencies and synchronizing with data from MoF. A series of training courses in GIS, remote sensing and network management will be organized. The expected outputs include: provision of spatial forest resources data and information; and improvement of institutional capacity in West Papua Province which will contribute to strengthening the forest monitoring systems.

(3) PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F) Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	565,694
ITTO Budget:	US\$	489,194
Government of Ghana:	US\$	76,500

Implementing Agency: Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

The economic loss to the nation of loss of biodiversity through deforestation and land degradation has been estimated at about US\$54bn (about 4% of the Gross Domestic Product) (Tutu, et al. 1993). To ensure sustainable utilization of Ghana's biological resources, it has been recommended that local community participation in sustainable management of biodiversity and the strengthening of the management of off forest reserve biological resources should be undertaken. Addressing biodiversity conservation and empowering local communities can thereby help ensure relevance to local people by reducing poverty.

This project aims at contributing to the efficient community based biodiversity conservation and monitoring contributes to ecosystem stability and promotes improvement in livelihoods of local communities. It specifically intends to implement community based forests management and utilization to restore degraded forests, and contribute to improvement in biodiversity conservation, livelihood as well as environmental services.

Expected outputs are:

- Capacity of local communities built and implemented in sustainable forest management systems;
- Strategies for restoration of degraded areas identified and implemented;
- Capacity of local communities in flora and fauna survey built, baseline data determined and hot spots identified and mapped;
- Mechanisms for effective community based biodiversity monitoring developed and implemented;
- The importance of the use of biodiversity on local communities livelihood determined; and
- Determination of the feasibility of designing and implementing PES scheme for the benefit of Communities.

(4) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,010,737
ITTO Budget:	US\$	601,037
PERUBAMBU	US\$	309,700
Regional, Local Governments	US\$	100,000

Implementing Agency: PERUVIAN BAMBOO ASSOCIATION – PERUBAMBU

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project

will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

This project stems from the increasing importance of bamboo in Peru as a result of the characteristics and properties of this resource, making it suitable for a wide variety of uses, particularly in the restoration or rehabilitation of degraded forest lands, the construction of housing and other seismic-resistant infrastructure, and the manufacturing of furniture, crafts, food and other products of significance for rural and urban development in the Peruvian tropical forests and coastal areas. This proposal has been developed in response to a request from leaders, local governments and beneficiaries from the San Martin and Amazonas regions after the successful implementation of Project PD 428/06 Rev.1 (F), as well as the interest expressed by many native community organizations and other local stakeholders, particularly native communities and settlers living in poverty, who in the final stage of that project became aware of the qualities and benefits of bamboo but require specialized technical support to continue or initiate the management of natural forests, the rehabilitation and restoration of deforested lands and ecosystems through bamboo plantations in agroforestry systems, and the value-added processing of bamboo canes, so as to consolidate the use of bamboo as a sustainable socioeconomic development alternative in these departments and their area of influence.

Overall, the project envisages reducing the degradation of tropical bamboo forests and improve the living standards of poor local communities in the northern forest region of Peru via the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands and adding value to natural bamboo stands under sustainable forest management, and further training users for the development of production chains so as to improve the socioeconomic and environmental living standards of the population living in poverty in the project's area of influence.

(5) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	843,364
ITTO Budget:	US\$	498,154
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	52,200
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners	US\$	293,010

Implementing Agency: Centre for Conservation and Rehabilitation R&D, Forestry Research and Development Agency (FPRDA), Ministry of Forestry (MOF)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

The Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) covering an area of approximately 705,000 ha in the province of Riau, Sumatra has been recognized as a public-private partnership biosphere reserve by the UNESCO World Monitoring Networks in 2009. However, this biosphere reserve has not been sustainably managed. The main problems include weaknesses in planning framework of GSK-BR without an integrated strategic management plan, weak capacity of concerned institutions in implementing the biosphere reserve concept and poor participation of local communities in management operations. Therefore, the project is designed to initiate an effective implementation framework of sustainable management and conservation of GSK-BR by realizing the management objectives and basic functions of GSK-BR. More specifically, it aims at promoting the sustainable management and conservation of the reserve in an effective manner. The expected outputs are: i) enhanced planning framework of GSK-BR; ii) strengthened institutional capacity to sustainably manage GSK-BR; and iii) promoted partnerships between key stakeholders on the operational management of GSK-BR. All planned activities including the development of an integrated management plan will be implemented collaboratively by local institutions and stakeholders, Ministry of Forestry, provincial government of Riau, Sinarmas Forestry and Partners as well as local communities and local research and development institutions.

(6) PD 713/12 Rev.2 (F) Operationalising the Policy on Sustainable Management of Sandalwood Resource Through Improved Livelihood and Increased Participation of Local Communities (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	692,955.20
ITTO Budget:	US\$	592,155.20
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	100,800.00

Implementing Agency: Directorate General of Forest Utilization, Ministry of Forestry, in collaboration with Forestry Service of East Nusa Tenggara Province

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in the Spring 2014 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

In view of the challenge of strengthening the enabling conditions for sustainable Sandalwood resource in east Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia, the project is designed to strengthen the policy framework on Sandalwood management for the effective and full participation of local communities in maintaining Sandalwood resource. More specifically, the project is to promote the effective participation of local communities in Sandalwood plantation development and management on private/community lands in east Nusa Tenggara province. The expected outputs of the project are: (1) effective implementation of a new policy on sustainable management of sandalwood resource through increased participation of local communities; (2) improved capacity of the local communities on provision of seedlings and planting techniques; and (3) formulated a long-term program on sandalwood resource development in east Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia. To achieve such outputs, key project activities include: wider dissemination of the newly adopted regulations; review of the existing procedures for the efficient and sustainable use of Sandalwood; establishing model Sandalwood plantations; organizing capacity building training courses for Sandalwood nursery and plantation development techniques; and developing a long-term programme and action plans on Sandalwood resource development in east Nusa Tenggara province.

(7) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	636,304
ITTO Budget:	US\$	414,904
Government of Ghana:	US\$	221,400

Implementing Agency: RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH ASSOCIATION (RUDEYA)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) integrated into reforestation programmes can provide sustainable income to motivate 120,000 inhabitants at Atwima Mponua forest communities to manage forest plantations. Unfortunately, the farmers lack forest and land resources rights, forest business skills and NTFP technologies to undertake commercially viable NTFPs production within forest plantations. The main goal is

to establish sustainable Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME) aiming to reduce rural poverty through improved livelihood options, reduced land degradation, and soil fertility management in young reforestation area in the project region.

The project intends to establish sustainable community forest management and enterprise to reduce rural poverty through improved alternative livelihood options; reduce deforestation and land degradation in thirty (30) forest communities. It specifically intends to strengthen 600 farmers' capacity and skills to develop forest based enterprises as an integral part of the Modified Taugya System (MTS) program in Ghana.

Expected outputs are:

- 600 farmers resourced with Best practices training and inputs for sustainable NTFPs production;
- 600 farmers attained NTFPs processing, marketing and value addition skills;
- Three (3) NTFPs farmers' cooperative groups reorganized and strengthened; and
- MOU on NTFPs benefit sharing agreed on, prepared and adopted by key stakeholders.

(8) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$ 698,001.00
ITTO Budget:	US\$ 441,238.50
CALMECAC	US\$ 256,762.50
Implementing Agency:	FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL DEL HOMBRE Y SU ENTORNO – CALMECAC
Period of Approval:	Spring 2014
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Guatemala has followed the trend of accelerated deforestation and forest degradation in the tropics, which has led to risks, impacts and natural disasters. These problems have been aggravated by climate change and poverty, which are widespread throughout the region, increasing its vulnerability to natural phenomena. However, there are still extensive forest areas, many of which are traditionally managed by indigenous communities, as Guatemala currently holds the highest density of indigenous groups in Meso-America. In particular, the Department of Quiché has 7% of the national forest cover. However, these forests are threatened by new pressures from population growth and, more recently, from agro-industrial development. Therefore, there is an urgent need to carry out efforts to avoid the loss of forest resources and implement integrated development alternatives for the local communities.

In order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, INAB and CALMECAC are seeking to develop a sustainable forest planning system and establish financial mechanisms derived from the management and conservation of resources and environmental services in the Department of Quiché, which can also serve as a climate change adaptation measure.

As such, this project seeks to enhance the sustainable forest management skills of local community forest organizations in the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, with a view to reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the Xaclbal watershed area. Major outputs expected are: (1) a PDD developed for community forests; (2) Good forest management practices agreed and developed for community forests to reduce

deforestation and forest degradation; and (3) Sustainable forest management plans developed and implemented to ensure the conservation of community forests in the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché. This is an innovative proposal as it links and creates social dynamics between different sectors for the development of new models of participatory management of natural resources, through sustainable forest management and conservation systems that will contribute to the development of benefit-sharing mechanisms at the local level within the framework of the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation initiative.

(9) PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar

Budget and Funding Sources:

	Total Budget:	US\$	2,022,445
Phase I:	ITTO Budget:	US\$	599,962
	Government of Myanmar:	US\$	41,700
Phase II:	ITTO Budget:	US\$	1,339,083
	Government of Myanmar:	US\$	41,700
Implementing Agency:	Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Government of Myanmar		
Period of Approval:	Rev.1 approval: Autumn 2013 Rev.2 approval: Spring 2015		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / Phase I - 36 months; Phase II - 36 months		

The project was approved in Autumn 2013 but revised into two Phases by focusing on the capacity building of the Forest Research Institute on biodiversity research in Phase I. The revised project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle. The Phase I of the project is waiting for financing.

The Taninthayi (Tenasserim) Mountain Range, along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, covers a global important terrestrial eco-region with a transition zone from continental dry evergreen forests common in the north to semi-evergreen rain forests to the south. As a consequence, they contain some of the highest diversity of both bird and mammal species found in the Indo-Pacific region. The world's smallest mammal, Kitti's hog-nosed bat, equal in mass to a large bumblebee, resides in the limestone caves of this eco-region. Recent studies indicated that this eco-region is recognized as one of the world's largest populations of Asian elephants and tigers survive in the forests along the border between Thailand and Myanmar. Besides biodiversity features, the rugged watersheds drain into the mighty Tennaserim, Salween, and Chao Phraya rivers, supporting globally endangered and endemic species as well as a diversity of human cultures of Karen and Mon people. However, these outstanding biodiversity features and cultural diversity of the Taninthayi Range are vulnerable due to poaching, fragmentation and encroachment for agriculture, illegal logging, settlements inside and around the park, and human-elephant conflicts. In addition, limited capacity and resources for adequate biodiversity conservation in Myanmar make it unable to contribute to the transboundary biodiversity conservation in this eco-region.

The project aims at strengthening national capacity and resources in biodiversity conservation and effective conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar. The activities of Phase I include institutional capacity building of Myanmar for biodiversity conservation while the Phase II activities are focused on transboundary biodiversity conservation activities in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range in collaboration with Thai partners. The expected outputs include: i) capacity building of national institutions to design and implement biodiversity conservation, monitoring and research programmes in the Taninthayi Range; ii) establishment of initial institutional mechanisms for the transboundary biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range; and iii) strengthening of local stakeholder participation and livelihoods of forest-dependent local communities in the transboundary biodiversity conservation areas. At the national level the project will contribute to establishing transboundary biodiversity conservation programmes and activities that can be further enhanced in the Taninthayi Range between Myanmar and Thailand.

(10) PD 733/14 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Forest Restoration through Multiple-use of Degraded Forest Lands within Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve in Ghana

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	526,308
ITTO Budget:	US\$	416,246
Government of Ghana:	US\$	110,062

Implementing Agency: FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF GHANA (FORIG)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Shifting cultivation (SC) and forest encroachment remain significantly high as causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve (AEFR). These are leading to the loss of biodiversity, increased poverty and decreased quality of environmental services. Unfortunately, there is no established viable alternative land use at moment to SC within the AEFR or the surrounding forest areas. Addressing the continued loss and degradation of forest in the AEFR has become a major goal for the Ghana Forestry Commission and the District Assembly of Anwhiaso.

This Project aims to contribute significantly to the sustainable forest management (SFM), biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement of the local people surrounding AEFR. More specifically, the objective is to organize local communities to rehabilitate and manage the degraded lands through reforestation and multiple-use of degraded forest lands.

Expected outputs are:

- Improved awareness and knowledge among local people about SFM practices;
- Necessary elements of appropriate tenure developed and instituted;
- Local people empowered to adopt sustainable rehabilitation, management and multiple use of forest lands (MUFLs); and
- Technical support to implement SFM and MUFLs built.

(11) PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	518,084
ITTO Budget:	US\$	453,684
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	64,400

Implementing Agency: Regional Research Centre of South Sumatra

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

Peat swamp forests (PSF) in Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia estimated at nearly 13 million ha are a very important forest ecosystem as they store vast amounts of carbon as soil organic matter. However, these important ecosystems have been reduced through deforestation, degradation, drainage, and conversion to agricultural lands, forest fire and other activities. In light of the importance of sustaining peat swamp forests, this is designed to contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of Peat swamp forest (PSF) in Sumatra with engagement of local communities and private companies operating in PSF. The specific objective of the project is to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of PSF in Sumatra through capacity building of key stakeholders, wide application of improved technology, and improved

enabling policies for restoration of PSF. The project activities include public awareness raising, capacity building of key stakeholders for restoration-rehabilitation and sustainable management of PSF, and resolving the existing conflicts across government authorities in peatland management. The expected outputs are: i) Sufficient resources to promote restoration and rehabilitation of degraded and deforested PSF area provided; ii) Viable schemes to accelerate restoration and rehabilitation developed; and iii) Widespread initiatives on restoration and rehabilitation activities promoted.

(12) PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	494,545
ITTO Budget:	US\$	414,792
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	79,753

Implementing Agency: Centre for Forest Biotechnology and Tree Improvement Research (CFBTI)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in the Spring 2014 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

At least 10 species of *Dalbergia* are naturally found in Indonesia with a common name as Indonesian Rosewood and they range from small plants to large timber trees. Some well-known timber tree species are *Dalbergia latifolia* (known as Sonokeling) and *Dalbergia sissoo* (known as sonobritz.). Problems of these species in Indonesia are the depletion and rapid decrease in their natural populations. Habitat encroachment, unsustainable harvest and slow growing are making limited progress in replantation of these species. In addition, the conservation of plant genetic resources of the species within this genus is unclear, and the natural populations are not updated and extremely limited studies on their natural population status. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to conservation and sustainable management of Indonesian rosewood species (*Dalbergia* spp). The specific objective of the project aims to enhance genetic conservation, replantation and economic contribution of Indonesian Rosewood. The project activities include establishment of four ex-situ conservation areas and development of conservation and sustainable management guidelines. The expected outputs are: i) updated and improved information and data on the natural population and conservation status of *Dalbergia* spp; and ii) accelerated replantation of selected Indonesian rosewood species.

(13) PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (*Diospyros celebica* Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	515,540
ITTO Budget:	US\$	402,550
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	112,990

Implementing Agency: Makassar Forestry Research Institute (MFRI), Forest Research and Development Agency, Ministry of Forestry

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in the Spring 2014 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

Eboni species (*Diospyros celebica Bakh.*) is one of the most valuable fancy woods in Indonesia and naturally distributed in Sulawesi island. This species, however, has been seriously degraded due mainly to over-harvesting during the era of massive logging operations in the past and the lack of efforts for its conservation thereafter that sparks concern over its sustainability. In light of this challenge, this project is designed to contribute to the sustainable management of Eboni species. The specific objective of the project is to initiate conservation efforts for Eboni species with active engagement of local stakeholders. Technically, multi storied stand improvement to increase productivity and ensure conservation will be implemented by enrichment planting utilizing superior seedlings from selected natural Eboni stands in Sulawesi. Silvicultural treatments will include space arrangements of associated species to facilitate Eboni growth. The expected outputs of the project are: i) improved programs on genetic conservation of eboni species; ii) development of Eboni plantations with the engagement of local stakeholders; iii) increased involvement of local communities in Eboni conservation; and iv) promoted use of close substitutes for Eboni timber in practical applications.

(14) PD 741/14 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$ 1,036,153
ITTO Budget:	US\$ 480,077
AIDER:	US\$ 556,076
Implementing Agency:	ASOCIACION PARA LA INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO INTEGRAL (AIDER)
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2014
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 30 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

This project will deal with the limited capacities of key stakeholders to address the degradation of tropical dry forests on the north coast of Peru, covering the 3 departments that share this ecosystem: Tumbes, Piura and Lambayeque.

The project envisages improving the living standards for rural communities through the conservation and sustainable use of tropical dry forests; to this end, it will strengthen the capacities of key stakeholders to establish policies for the sustainable management of degraded dry forests. The intended outcomes include: improved management at the regional forest administration level; promotion of active public sector and civil society involvement in dialogue and consensus-building spaces with a view to decision making on regional forest management; and strengthening of technical and operational capacities for community forest management on the north coast.

Activities include the analysis of the forest regulatory framework, technical and administration capacity building, strengthening of the forest information system for tropical dry forests, implementation of a communication and outreach plan, systematization of experiences and community training in forest management practices and extension officers' training in forest management.

(15) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	737,683
ITTO Budget:	US\$	522,637
AIDER	US\$	215,046

Implementing Agency: ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AIDER)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 30 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

This project seeks to address the problem of the limited capacity of local communities for the management of secondary forests and residual primary forests in the Provinces of Coronel Portillo and Padre Abad, in the Department of Ucayali. It will help improve local living standards and the conservation of secondary and residual primary forests through capacity building for forest management. The intended outcomes include: promote the management of secondary forests and residual primary forests; increase the value of this type of forest in the Districts of Campo Verde, Nueva Requena, Irazola and Curimaná; strengthen the organization of the management of secondary forests and residual primary forests; and improve the capacity to market (timber and non timber) forest products and environmental services provided by forests. Forest management activities will include: implementation of individual production plans and pilot forest management plans (for timber and non-timber production); awareness building campaigns at the District level through events, radio spots and in schools; and estimation of the amount of carbon sequestered by forests as an awareness building strategy. Forest management organizations will be encouraged to participate in public discussion spaces.

(16) PD 747/14 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Community Forest Management Through the Implementation of Forest Training and Extension in Guatemala

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	805,700
ITTO Budget:	US\$	572,292
INAB	US\$	190,848
IUCN	US\$	42,560

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director

to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Guatemala's territory is essentially suitable for forestry; however, its lands are mostly used for agricultural purposes and therefore, forest degradation has reached an alarming rate. Concerned about this situation, the Forests for Peace Project in 1992 launched a program to incorporate forestry issues into the National Education System.

In the 1970s, the General Directorate for Agricultural Services (DIGESA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) was assigned agricultural extension and technical assistance functions, while in the field of livestock production, these same functions were assigned to the General Directorate for Livestock Production Services (DIGESEPE), attached to the same Ministry. Eventually, these two institutions responsible for providing public extension services were closed in 1998 and 1999 respectively. In 2011, with the restructuring of INAB, forest extension services regained significance, which led to the establishment of the Department of Forest Training and Extension with the objective of strengthening the capacities of forest sector stakeholders through the transfer of technology and the provision of technical assistance. At the same time, the position of forest extension officer was established within the structure of regional directorate offices throughout the country.

It is in this context that INAB identified the need to establish and implement a Forest Extension Programme to respond to the current needs of the population involved in forest activities and to maximize the use of forest incentive benefits, while substantially contributing to the development of a *forest culture* in the country.

This project stems from the need to strengthen community forest management through a forest extension programme so as to enable the communities to adequately and sustainably use and manage their forest and agroforestry resources, thus contributing to poverty alleviation and to the reduction of forest cover loss and degradation by recognizing the value of forest resources, including timber and non-timber forest products and environmental services.

Overall, the project envisages *contributing towards the restoration and protection of forests through the management* of knowledge in rural community areas of Guatemala". More specifically, it aims to Improve the means and capacities of rural communities for forest management and efficient land use through the transfer of technology and the provision of technical assistance and information on forest and agroforestry resource management in formal and non-formal education settings.

(17) PD 748/14 Rev.3 (F) Building Capacities and Meaningful Stakeholder Participation in Forest Governance to Contribute toward Sustainable Forest Management and Improved Livelihoods of Forest Dependent Communities in Honduras and Guatemala

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	910,191
ITTO Budget:	US\$	587,961
Executing Agency :	US\$	222,030
Other sources (INAB & ICF) :	US\$	100,200

Implementing Agency: Rainforest Alliance

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project

will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The project is based on pre-project RED-PPD 041/11 Rev.2 (F) executed by ClientEarth between September 2012 and June 2013. The pre-project was designed to gather information on stakeholders’ capacity constraints and needs in relation to forest governance and participation for the purpose to propose a capacity building work plan adapted to the specific realities of stakeholders in each of the countries. The quantitative and qualitative data gathered throughout this process was compiled, analyzed and used as the basis to develop this full project proposal.

The specific development objective of the proposed project is to ensure meaningful and sustained primary stakeholder participation in Forest Governance, in order to bring about sustainable forest management and improved livelihoods in forest dependent communities in the Mosquitia Region and Pico Bonito National Park in Honduras, and in the Maya Biosphere, Alta Verapaz and Western Highlands in Guatemala.

The three key expected project outcomes are: 1) Enabling conditions and internal capacity are established in order to demonstrate conformance with FLEGT, The Lacey Act, and REDD+ implementation in forest-dependent communities and community-based organizations of the Mosquitia Region and Pico Bonito National Park in Honduras, and in the Maya Biosphere, Alta Verapaz and Western Highlands in Guatemala; 2) Local NGOs effectively and sustainably strengthen primary stakeholders’ knowledge and understanding of their rights, safeguards and meaningful participatory mechanisms on forest governance; and 3) Local, subnational and national governments effectively and sustainably engage local NGOs and primary stakeholders in forest governance and policy decision making processes.

(18) 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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	914,363
ITTO Budget:	US\$	482,391
Pronatura Mexico A.C.	US\$	284,450
- Veracruz Region:		
US Fish and Wildlife Service / NAWCA:	US\$	137,752
Environmental Fund of Veracruz:	US\$	9,770

Implementing Agency: PRONATURA MEXICO A.C. –VERACRUZ REGION

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The accelerated loss of mangrove forests in Mexico and particularly in the Alvarado Lagoon System in Veracruz requires a rethinking of conservation and sustainable management strategies. Despite the strict mangrove legislation, the past few years have seen mangroves in the project area destroyed at an accelerated rate; over the past three years alone 2,000 hectares of mangrove forests have been replaced by pasture land for cattle. After 12 years of work in the area, the authors and partners have identified local communities and stakeholders with land, the potential and an interest in launching silvicultural management and mangrove forest rehabilitation. There is, therefore, a need to shift from a more protectionist and

biological approach to one in which local communities are able to use mangrove timber in a managed and legal manner.

This proposal focuses on obtaining certification as a Wildlife Sustainable Management Unit (UMA) which allows the use of mangrove forests under sustainability criteria. Furthermore, it develops forest management, restoration and mangrove forest health monitoring plans. The project deals with the technical training of forest communities and professionals as well as market surveys and marketing strategies through the development of a marketing strategy for mangrove timber. The project has a significant financial counterpart from the Government of the United States of America through the Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetland Conservation Act. Moreover, the project complements and strengthens the recommendations made to other ITTO mangrove forest projects in ex-post evaluations.

(19) PD 754/14 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	709,718
ITTO Budget:	US\$	591,618
Government of Ghana:	US\$	118,100

Implementing Agency: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
CERCLE POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES (NGO Ce.Sa.Re.N)

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin are dotted with pockets of sacred forests (SFs) which are rich with biodiversity, representing a natural heritage of great value due to their multiple biological, ecological, socio-cultural and economic functions. Currently these forest areas are subject to severe degradation that threatens the entire ecosystem of Ramsar sites and therefore the livelihoods of local people.

The development objective of this project is to sustainably manage sacred forests within Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin through the sustainable management of 40 sacred forests within these sites, to be achieved by building the capacity of stakeholders to improve the living conditions of local communities. The specific objective of the project is to sustainably manage sacred forests within Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin by building the capacity of stakeholders to improve the living conditions of local populations.

Expected outputs are:

- More appropriate use of sacred forest resources;
- Improved incomes derived from sacred forests; and
- SFs are integrated in the System of Municipal Protected Areas.

(20) PD 762/14 Rev.2 (F) Developing and Implementing Improved Management Practices that Maintain and Enhance Forests and Biodiversity Protection, to Support SFM within the Context of Multiple Use in Guyana's Forest Dependent Communities

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	701,552
ITTO Budget:	US\$	601,552
GFC:	US\$	100,000

Implementing Agency: Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Although Guyana is one of the few countries in the Caribbean with largely intact forest, there is evidence that degradation and deforestation in community forest concessions, due to poor knowledge and understanding of sustainable multiple use forest management practices, could become a serious problem and threaten biodiversity nationally and globally without timely action. The purpose of the Project is to help break this cycle by improving the socio-economic welfare of local and indigenous forest-dependent communities in productive (commercial) state forest concessions, through helping them to implement management practices that maintain the forests, enhance biodiversity protection and promote sustainable use of forest resources within the context of multiple use.

The Project will specifically address Output 4 of the Joint ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity, which aims "To improve the welfare of local communities and indigenous groups through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources."

The Project will assist the sustainable management of community forest concessions including preservation of biological diversity in Guyana by: identifying and assessing the key elements of biodiversity that need enhancement in the Project areas; identifying and documenting existing "unsustainable" practices which may be inimical to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity; developing innovative management techniques, practices and plans that would assist the protection and enhancement of the identified biodiversity, while supporting sustainable multiple use including timber harvesting; providing training and support to assist the local and indigenous communities to adopt the developed new and innovative management techniques, practices and plans; and disseminating the knowledge and experience from the Project to other local forest-dependent and indigenous communities within Guyana, through workshops and other training activities.

The outputs from the Project will be the following: potential vulnerable biodiversity species and the existing management practices that impact or threaten them identified and documented, as the basis for developing and implementing improved and innovative management practices; innovative management techniques and plans that promote biodiversity protection and enhancement, and support sustainable, multiple use objectives developed and field-tested; and training modules to help local forest-dependent and indigenous communities in the Project area adopt innovative and adaptive management techniques and plans that promote biodiversity protection and enhance sustainable, multiple use objectives, developed and implemented.

(21) PD 764/14 Rev.1 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilot Areas of PNG

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	733,829
ITTO Budget:	US\$	663,829
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	70,000

Implementing Agency: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

The project is a key outcome of the PNG Forest Authority's Forestry and Climate Change Framework for Action (2009-2015) which highlights the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to CFM programming that engages customary landowners at the local level and enhances the capacity of government institutions at the national level. The development objective of the project aims to improve sustainable forest management practices through enhanced community livelihoods and social stability. The specific objective of the project is to establish a model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that supports CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+) and increases landowner understanding about the goods and services that forests provide. Project activities will be managed and sustained by the PNG Forest Authority at the national level; working in collaboration with 6 CFM partners and their pilot landowner groups at the local level. This arrangement has the potential for ongoing replication in the future. The project will deliver four specific outputs, namely i) Participatory data collection technology is improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; ii) Clan groups are participating appropriately in the National Land Development Program; iii) A data management system is engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and iv) Policy and planning guidelines for CFM are in place.

(22) PD 765/14 Rev.2 (F) Development of a Forest Landscape Restoration Program for Guatemala Based on ITTO Guidelines

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	792,672
ITTO Budget:	US\$	601,944
INAB:	US\$	190,728
Implementing Agency:	NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)	
Period of Approval:	Spring 2015	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months	

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Guatemala has a forest cover (2010) of 3,722,595 hectares, which accounts for 34% of the national territory. In 2006 the country's forest cover was estimated at 3,868,708 ha; these figures represent a net loss of 146,112 hectares of forest, which is equivalent to a net deforestation rate of 1.0% annually at the national level (with respect to existing forests in 2006). This situation has become particularly crucial as Guatemala has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to extreme climatic events and other adverse climatic conditions, adding to the problems of loss of biodiversity and reduction of forest goods and services.

Over the last two decades, Guatemala has promoted policy instruments for forest conservation, management and reforestation through the Forest Incentives Programme (PINFOR) and the Forest Incentives Programme for Small Forestry and Agroforestry Landholders (PINPEP), developing regulatory, technical and planning tools to facilitate their implementation. However, despite the progress made in the administration and sustainable use of forest resources in the country, none of these policy instruments has specifically addressed the issue of forest landscape restoration through the use of one of the aforementioned tools.

The Forest Landscape Restoration Board has developed a Forest Restoration Map, where a total of 3,989,465 hectares has been identified as a potential area for restoration, which has been divided into four categories: a) protected areas; b) riparian areas; c) mangrove forest areas; and d) areas suitable for forestry with gradients of more than 50% and high water recharge capacity.

Thus, it is necessary to develop a project proposal aimed at the implementation of forest landscape restoration actions through pilot restoration sites established in accordance with the "ITTO Guidelines for the

Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests”, focused on 4 strategic forest ecosystems that have been prioritized by the National Forest Institute (INAB) and the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) - cloud forests, dry forests, pine-oak forests and mangrove forests.

The project’s development objective is to “reduce forest degradation and improve the restoration of forest ecosystems in Guatemala”. Its specific objective is to “improve forest landscape restoration actions through the implementation of a forest restoration mechanism based on ITTO guidelines with the broad participation of key stakeholders in prioritized strategic ecosystems”.

(23) PD 772/15 Rev.1 (F) Improved Application of Growth and Yield Models to Forest Management Planning in the Amazon Basin (Brazil)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	191,620
ITTO Budget:	US\$	143,920
Government of Brazil:	US\$	47,700

Implementing Agency: INSTITUTO FLORESTA TROPICAL, BRAZIL

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 18 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The project will develop free, downloadable tools for sustainable management planning of the mixed natural forests of the Amazon region and provide training and ‘training of trainers’ workshops for their use. Available research data from long-term PSPs will be compiled to openly-available tables of key growth parameters, and a modelling framework based on the MYRLIN toolkit will be updated and made cross-platform (PC, iOS, Android) compliant, and extended with GIS components for whole-forest planning. An initial technical workshop will establish the scientific basis and conformance with Brazilian forest planning laws and standards. A website will provide access to the tools, data tables, user guides and training materials.

(24) PD 773/15 Rev.1 (F) Restoration and Maintenance of Environmental Services in Moist Tropical Pasture Lands - Criteria and Techniques for the Introduction and Use of Native Trees (Mexico)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	304,483.50
ITTO Budget:	US\$	151,200.00
Government of Mexico:	US\$	153,283.50

Implementing Agency: INECOL (INSTITUTO DE ECOLOGÍA, A.C.)

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Livestock farming is the most common land use in Mexican forests and it is also the main cause of deforestation and forest fragmentation. This loss of forest cover is a threat to environmental services particularly water and soil quality, biodiversity habitat, natural regeneration capacity, CO2 sequestration capacity, and production of food and timber, provided by one of the richest and most productive ecosystems in the country. The decrease and potential loss of environmental services is a threat for the rural population's development and well-being, and increases poverty in large areas of Mexico and Central America.

This project will incorporate pasture land trees as a missing basic habitat component that is critical for the maintenance of local biodiversity needed for natural regeneration capacity, fertility and water cycles in the Los Tuxtlas range region. The last remaining pockets of highland broadleaved forest in the Gulf of Mexico are found in this region. The proposal will help reverse the loss of biological diversity and provision of goods and services through woodlots of native trees that will not alter current land use. The presence of trees in pastures is the first step in the development of a reforestation culture where livestock farming now prevails in open fields.

Intended outcomes on project completion include an assessment of the tree cover in the target area, as well as a typology of pastures. Thus, the criteria for adequate wooded areas will have been set, facilitating further work on woodland standards that will benefit primary stakeholders (cattle farmers and their families, local population) as well as indirect stakeholders (users of forest goods and services). The development of tree planting techniques and demonstration sites will be implemented jointly with the local population and will be disseminated to the general public through an outreach campaign based on publications and various media.

(25) PD 778/15 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable Forest Management, Conservation of Biological Diversity and Promotion of Landscapes for Socio-Ecologic Production in Indigenous Territories of the Uwalcox Micro-Watershed in Guatemala's Western Altiplano (Guatemala)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	838,002.60
ITTO Budget:	US\$	699,581.00
Government of :	US\$	138,421.60

Implementing Agency: ASOCIACIÓN VIVAMOS MEJOR

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start 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. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The project will promote the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable forest management and community agroforestry in the Uwalcox River micro-watershed to promote adaptation to climate change and improve living standards for indigenous communities in Guatemala, implementing integrated management practices in the micro-watershed area. It will use a participatory approach to plan sustainable forest management and conservation of biological diversity in tropical forest ecosystems (pine-oak and cloud

forests) in the Uwalcox River micro-watershed, as a strategy for climate variability and change adaptation and mitigation. Furthermore, it will promote the development of socio-ecological production landscapes through the restoration of forest and agroforestry cover in forestlands now denuded of forests and/or under agricultural use, as a strategy to promote ecologic connectivity between forest stands and to strengthen food self-sufficiency among indigenous communities in the Uwalcox micro-watershed area.

D. PROJECTS COMING UNDER THE SUNSET PROVISIONS SINCE THE LAST SESSION

- (1) PD 460/07 Rev.2 (F) Achieving Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in China through Local Capacity Building and Community Development – Phase II
- (2) PD 631/12 Rev.2 (F) Reforestation of Coastal Wetlands in Southern Ghana Using Indigenous Tree and Bamboo Species
- (3) PD 645/12 Rev.3 (F) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management of Rinjani Barat Forest Management Unit (Indonesia)
- (4) PD 665/12 Rev.2 (F) Implementation of a Fire Prevention and Control Plan in the Central Amazon Region of Peru
- (5) 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
- (6) PD 715/13 Rev.1 (F) Improving the Production, Conservation and Management of Forest Seeds in Benin

● **PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

A total of three (3) approved pre-projects are currently under implementation while no pre-project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are six (6) approved pre-projects still awaiting full financing and four (4) pre-projects that fell under the sunset provision since the last Session. In this report the pre-projects are grouped into four categories:

- A. Pre-projects under active implementation;
- B. Pre-projects which have financing allocated, but for which the contract or agreement regulating implementation has still not been concluded;
- C. Pre-projects which still do not have full financing secured; and
- D. Pre-projects coming under the sunset provision since the last Session consistently with Decision 2(X), Annex 2, Paragraph 2. In some cases, these pre-projects were at least partially funded or had other developments which the Committee may wish to consider in its discussions. These pre-projects are grouped together in Section C of this report.

A. PRE-PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	64,128
ITTO Budget:		US\$	52,402
Government of Japan:	US\$	37,402	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	15,000	
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:		US\$	11,726

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Water and Forest Resources

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XXXVI, July 2004, Interlaken, Switzerland

Starting Date and Duration: November 2006 / 6 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until February 2008 [CRF(XLI)]

The 6-month pre-project was approved by the Council during its Thirty-sixth Session in Interlaken, Switzerland, July 2004 and full financing was pledged at the same Session. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the pre-project was signed on 14 January 2005. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in November 2006. A pre-project extension was granted until February 2008 without additional ITTO funds, by the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management at its Forty-first Session, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

This pre-project intends to contribute to the sustainable management of forests in Côte d'Ivoire. It specifically intends to provide better knowledge of the current status of forest resources and management capacities during the post-conflict period, as a basis for developing better forest policies.

Most of the pre-project activities have been completed. However, the submission of reports (final technical report compiling the outcomes and findings of consultant reports, and completion report) has been delayed due to the long validation process within Cote d'Ivoire, requiring the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The submission of these reports was further delayed by the pre-election and post-election socio-political turmoil in Cote d'Ivoire, from 2008 and 2011.

The Secretariat urges the Executing Agency to take the necessary arrangements for the submission of the technical report and completion report, as well as the final financial audit report, not later than end of March 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	94,252
ITTO Budget:		US\$	75,578
Government of Japan:	US\$	40,000	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	35,578	
Government of Ghana:		US\$	18,674

Implementing Agency: Institute of Renewable Natural Resources Management (IRNR), in collaboration with Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) and Forestry Commission

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XXXII, May 2002, Bali, Indonesia

Starting Date and Duration: October 2006 / 12 months

This project was reported as completed at a previous CRF session and documented as such in CRF(XLIII)/2, but is still pending the final financial audit. The Secretariat urges the Executing Agency to submit the final financial audit report, at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2016.

(3) PPD 123/06 Rev.1 (F) Controlling dieback and Decay Phenomenon in Plantations Species (Cote d'Ivoire)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	98,045
ITTO Budget:		US\$	79,920
Government of Japan:	US\$	79,920	
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:		US\$	18,125

Implementing Agency: Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)
 Session of Approval: ITTC Session XL, June 2006, Merida, Mexico
 Starting Date and Duration: July 2007 / 6 months

This project was reported as completed at a previous CRF session and documented as such in CRF(XLIII)/2, but is still pending the final financial audit. The Secretariat urges the Executing Agency to submit the final financial audit report, at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2016.

B. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

None.

C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

(1) 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-Kéllé, Central Cameroon

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	99,945
ITTO Budget:	US\$	93,285
Government of Cameroon:	US\$	6,660

Implementing Agency: BONDJOCK MUNICIPALITY
 Period of Approval: Spring 2014
 Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

Because of shifting cultivation, the excessive development of oil palm cultivation, the overexploitation of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and timber, the forest ecosystem Ndjock-Lipan has been undergoing various pressures for more than two decades. It has become clear that the State can no longer cope alone with all forest challenges, including forest regeneration problems made more acute by the steady increase in population and its demand for timber and non-timber.

The future project, to be derived from this pre-project, intends to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of the NDJOCK-LEPAN forest ecosystem in the BONDJOCK municipality, Nyong and Kéllé Department to promote the local forest economy as part of the poverty alleviation effort. Based on the studies implemented, the pre-project specifically intends to formulate a project proposal aimed at establishing a template for the participatory sustainable management of natural resources in the BONDJOCK Municipality.

Expected outputs are:

- Awareness-raising workshops are held to facilitate the removal of constraints hindering the successful completion of the forest reserve gazetting process;
- Socio-economic, mapping, ecological and environmental studies have been implemented and data have been released; and
- A full project proposal has been formulated and validated and submitted to the ITTO Secretariat.

(2) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	99,539
ITTO Budget:	US\$	90,804
Government of Cameroon:	US\$	8,735

Implementing Agency: *ACTION POUR UN DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉQUITABLE INTÉGRÉ ET DURABLE (ADEID)* –
Action for Fair, Integrated and Sustainable Development

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

Cameroon is one of the major forest countries in the Congo Basin where forest lands are highly degraded and in some places the forest cover is being removed. The direct causes of deforestation and receding forest cover are the slash-and-burn practices of shifting cultivation, the excessive development oil palm plantation, over-logging of timber species, the excessive extraction of valuable non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and mining activities. In addition to these direct causes there are indirect causes of deforestation such as the increasing population pressure, economic pressure and weaknesses of some aspect of governance.

The future project, to be derived from this pre-project, intends to contribute to the sustainable management of the Mbam and Kim forest ecosystems through the reduction of forest degradation and the value-added development of environmental services in this forest complex. The pre-project specifically intends to formulate a project proposal in support of natural regeneration and forest plantations using high value species in the Mbam and Kim Department.

Expected outputs are:

- Participatory multi-resource inventory studies, socio-economic and mapping studies have been implemented and resulting data have been released;
- The training needs of communities and municipalities in the region have been clearly identified in terms of controlled forestry work, MRV and Safeguards together with a capacity-building methodology; and
- A full project proposal has been formulated, with an action plan and substantial budget, validated and submitted to the ITTO Secretariat.

(3) PPD 177/14 Rev.1 (F) Inventory of Mangrove Ecosystem and Development of a Management Plan for Gabon

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	139,350
ITTO Budget:	US\$	95,928
Government of Gabon:	US\$	53,700

Implementing Agency: MINISTRY OF WATER AND FOREST RESOURCES
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

Mangroves are extensive wetlands located in tropical or subtropical intertidal environment which

are influenced by tidal marshes. They are a true high-value element of the natural heritage considering the economic and social and ecological functions they fulfill. In Gabon, mangrove forests are located along the coast in three (3) areas with contrasted landscape features : the Komo estuary, the Ogowé Delta and the lagoon outlets in the South. These mangroves ecosystems are facing the problem of degradation for urban development needs, development of industrial zones and fishery-related activities.

The future project, to be derived from this pre-project, intends to achieve the sustainability of the ecological standard of mangrove resources while incorporating the needs of socio-economic development. The specific objective of the pre-project is to define and formulate a project proposal on mangrove ecosystem inventory and management plan.

Expected outputs are:

- One report on mangrove ecosystem diagnostic is available; and
- One project proposal is identified, formulated and finalized.

(4) PPD 178/14 Rev.2 (F) Support to the Creation of Green Belts around the Waza, Benoue, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda National Parks (Cameroon)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	99,890
ITTO Budget:	US\$	86,240
Government of Cameroon:	US\$	13,650

Implementing Agency: DIRECTORATE OF WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION AREAS (DFAP) /MINFOF

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

The vegetation of the Waza, Faro, Benue and Bouba Ndjidda National Parks is subject to multiple threats that jeopardize their existence. These threats stem from the way subsistence needs of local communities are addressed including their needs for fuel wood and wood material for rural infrastructure and fences, and this situation is maintained through a lack of local initiatives to rehabilitate the degrading plant cover. National Parks are the least degraded areas in the different regions.

The future project, to be derived from this pre-project, intends to contribute to the conservation and protection of biodiversity through securing the Benue, Faro, Bouba Djidda and Waza national parks and the development of community forestry. The pre-project specifically intends to generate the information to complement the development of a project proposal in support of the installation of green belts in the Bouba Ndjidda, Faro, Benue and Waza national parks.

Expected outputs are:

- Stakeholders awareness has been raised as to the importance of the pre-project;
- Socio-economic and environmental studies for each conservation area are available; and
- A The Project Proposal "Support to the establishment of green belts around the Waza, Benue, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda national parks" is developed and submitted to ITTO for funding.

(5) PPD 180/14 Rev.1 (F) Pre-project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Cote d'Ivoire

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	136,104
ITTO Budget:	US\$	99,994
Government of Gabon:	US\$	36,110

Implementing Agency: SOCIETE DE DEVELOPPEMENT DES FORETS (SODEFOR)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months

The coastal area of Côte d'Ivoire is lined with mangroves rich in biodiversity which represents a natural heritage of great value from their multiple biological, ecological and economic functions. They play a crucial role in the lives of local communities which causes them to exert pressure on resources. Presently, these mangrove forests are subject to a sharp deterioration that threatens the entire ecosystem of the coastal zone of Côte d'Ivoire and therefore the livelihoods of local people. But baseline information and data are lacking to develop a rehabilitation and sustainable management programme for the mangrove forests of Côte d'Ivoire.

The future project, to be derived from this pre-project, intends to contribute to the sustainable management of mangrove forests in Côte d'Ivoire. The specific objective of the pre-project is to undertake a baseline study of mangrove forests in the coastal zone of Côte d'Ivoire, so as to formulate a project proposal for the rehabilitation and sustainable management this ecosystem.

Expected outputs are:

- The data required to identify and plan a mangrove forest rehabilitation and sustainable management project are available; and
- A Mangrove forest rehabilitation and sustainable management project for the coastal area of Côte d'Ivoire is formulated and submitted to ITTO for approval.

(6) PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F) Feasibility Study on the Payment of Ecosystem Services provided by Forests in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	88,598
ITTO Budget:	US\$	71,098
Government of Gabon:	US\$	17,500

Implementing Agency: *CERCLE POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES* (Club for the Conservation of Natural Resources, NGO CESAREN)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

Tropical forests provide many critical environmental services whose value have been increasingly capitalized during this decade to meet the financial and economic challenges related to sustainable forest management. In Benin, although significant efforts are being made to promote sustainable forest management through the development and implementation of forest management and development plans, many challenges remain to reduce and reverse the forest degradation and deforestation trend. Among these challenges is the payment of the environmental services provided by tropical forests. The potentials for value-added development and capitalization of ecosystem services provided by forests do exist; however baseline information on the subject is lacking.

The future project, to be derived from this pre-project, intends to contribute to the payment of the ecosystem services (PES) provided by the forests of Benin. The specific objective of the pre-project is to collect and process baseline information on the payment of forest environmental services in Benin required to formulate an appropriate project proposal.

Expected outputs are:

- Baseline information on PES mechanisms are available; and
- A project to pay for forest ecosystem services formulated and submitted to ITTO for approval

D. PRE-PROJECTS COMING UNDER THE SUNSET PROVISIONS SINCE THE LAST 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 176/13 Rev.1 (F) Identification and Planning of Measures for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Estate Owned by Individuals in Togo

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