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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE ITTO THEMATIC PROGRAMMES**

(Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda)

List of Acronyms

ATIBT	International Association for Tropical Timber Technologies
BWP	Biennial Work Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFME	Community Forest Management and Enterprises
CFPI	Chinese Forest Products Index Mechanism
CIRAD	International Agronomic Research Cooperation Centre for Development
CORPIAA	Regional Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Council
CTFT	Technical Centre for Tropical Forestry
DDD	Directorate for Sustainable Development, Democratic Republic of Congo
DIAF	Directorate of Forest Inventory and Management, Democratic Republic of Congo
FFPRI	Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade of the European Union
IDE	Industrial Development and Efficiency
INAB	National Institute of Forests, Guatemala
ITTC	International Tropical Timber Council
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations
IWCS	Internal Wood Control System
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MECNT	Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Democratic Republic of Congo
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Monitoring Protocol
NOL	No Objection Letter
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
OLMS	Online Monitoring System
PSC	Project Steering Committee
PTC	Project Technical Committee
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REDDES	Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services
REFACOF	Network of African Women for Community Forest Management
TFLET	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
TLAS	Timber Legality Assurance System
TMT	Trade and Market Transparency
TP	Thematic Programme
TPAC	Thematic Programme Advisory Committee
TPD	Thematic Programme Document
TPP	Thematic Programme Profile
TWNA	The Wood News Agency
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
YPO	Yearly Plan of Operation

1. Introduction

This document is prepared pursuant to Decisions 8 (XLIV) on the Thematic Programmes (TP) subaccount under the Special Account, 9 (XLIV) on the Operational Procedures and Guidelines of the Thematic Programmes on a Pilot Basis and 10 (XLIV) on the Thematic Programme Profiles (TPP), requesting the Executive Director to prepare annual progress reports on the implementation of the ITTO Thematic Programmes for Council's review.

The Thematic Programmes approved by the Council are:

- Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET)
- Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES)
- Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME)
- Trade and Market Transparency (TMT)
- Industry Development and Efficiency (IDE)

In keeping with the above Decisions, this document reports on the current status of Thematic Programme implementation and the progress made since the 50th Session of the ITTC held in Yokohama, Japan, 3-8 November 2014.

Under the Thematic Programmes 79 projects have been approved for funding, i.e. 29 under TFLET, 31 under REDDES, 5 under CFME and 14 under TMT. Tables 4 and 5 provide an overview of the projects funded under each programme. 43 projects have been completed, 28 projects are ongoing, three projects are 'pending agreement', one project is in the inception phase and four projects have gone into 'sunset'. Chapter 4 of this report highlights selected achievements and impacts during the reporting period. Annex I provides an overview on the status of the individual projects. Projects reported completed to earlier sessions of the ITTC and projects in 'sunset' are not included in Annex I.

2. Thematic Programme Financing

During the reporting period, the USA has contributed to TMT in the amount of US\$100,000. No pledges have been received for TFLET, REDDES, CFME or IDE. Table 1 shows the funding status by programme. Table 2 provides an overview of the pledges to the Thematic Programmes by programme and donor, divided into pledges received during the TP pilot phase (2009-2012) and pledges received under the SAP 2013-2018 (starting with the 48th ITTC). The funding received for the Thematic Programmes under the SAP 2013-2018 is US\$3,082,730 (see Table 2).

Table 1. TP Funding Status by Programme

TP	a) Pledges	b) Committed	c) Available for Allocation (a – b)
TFLET	\$9,079,307	\$8,655,493	\$423,814
REDDES	\$9,532,742	\$9,361,604	\$171,138
CFME	\$1,100,000	\$1,054,720	\$45,280
TMT	\$2,210,613	\$2,210,613	NIL
IDE	n/a	n/a	n/a

The thematic programme on Industry Development and Enterprises (IDE) has not received any pledges from donors. Furthermore the thematic programme on Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME) has not received any new pledges since the 46th ITTC in December 2010 and consequently only one call for proposals was launched under that programme in 2010. Recalling Decision 4(XLVIII) on 'Strengthening the Thematic Programmes', Operative Clause 4 to 'urge members to contribute to the Thematic Programmes Sub-Account in order to fully implement ongoing Thematic Programmes as soon as possible', the Council may wish to re-emphasize the urgent need for additional financial pledges for the implementation of all thematic programmes.

Table 2: Pledges to the Thematic Programmes

TP pledges Pilot Phase						
Donor	Total	TFLET	REDDES	CFME	TMT	IDE
Norway	8,228,960	15,000	8,173,960	40,000		
Netherlands	3,000,000	3,000,000				
Japan	2,275,953	991,235	483,782	635,000	165,936	
Australia	280,608	280,608				
Switzerland	1,883,040	683,040	400,000	100,000	700,000	
USA	1,532,456	757,456	175,000	300,000	300,000	
UK	949,380	949,380				
EU/CITES	356,356				356,356	
Finland	132,888	35,199			97,689	
Germany	77,761	77,761				
JLIA	50,000	50,000				
New Zealand	37,530	37,530				
Sweden	25,000			25,000		
Korea	10,000	10,000				
Sub-Total	18,839,932	6,887,209	9,232,742	1,100,000	1,619,981	NIL
TP pledges SAP 2013-2018						
Australia	1,942,098	1,942,098				
EU/CITES	490,632				490,632	
Switzerland	300,000		300,000			
Japan	200,000	200,000				
USA	150,000	50,000			100,000	
Sub-Total	3,082,730	2,192,098	300,000		590,632	NIL
Total						
Total	21,922,662	9,079,307	9,532,742	1,100,000	2,210,613	NIL

3. Thematic Programme proposals approved in 2015

The 5th TMT Cycle was launched in November 2014 with a deadline of 9 January 2015. The call was limited to proposals addressing the objectives of both, the TMT as well as the ITTO-CITES programme. In June 2015, five proposals were approved for funding under the 5th TMT Cycle. Approved proposals are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: Projects approved for funding under the 5th TMT Cycle

5 th TMT Cycle Approvals			
	ID #	Title	ITTO Funding
Cameroon	TMT-SPD 020/15 (M)	Support to ANAFOR for the Optimal Operation of the <i>P. Elata (Assamela)</i> Management Data Base in Cameroon	\$113,400
China	TMT-SPD 023/15 Rev.1 (M)	Supporting SMEs and Importers of Tropical Timber for Better Understanding of CITES and the need to Comply with CITES Rules in China	\$150,000
Congo	TMT-SPD 021/15 (I)	Establishment of a Monitoring Centre for the Industrial use of <i>P. Elata</i> in the Congo Republic	\$130,000
Ghana	TMT-SPD 017/15 Rev. 2 (M)	Improving Sustainable <i>Pericopsis elata</i> Conservation and Trade Regulation in Ghana	\$149,997
Global	TMT-SPD 022/15 (M)	Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification system for all CITES-listed <i>Dalbergia</i> species and a feasibility study for <i>Diospyros</i> and look-alike species	\$200,000

4. Achievements, impacts and lessons learned

Main achievements of projects completed during the reporting period and projects about to complete are summarized below, for more details please refer to Annex I. Projects already reported to earlier sessions of the ITTC and projects in 'sunset' are not included in Annex I. Detailed information on all projects, including project document, completion report, technical reports, ex-post evaluation report or any other materials produced by a project, i.e., flyers, poster or brochures are also available from the ITTO online project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/. Documents are posted as they become available in the original language of submission.

TFLET

TFL-SPD 028/12 Rev.1 (M), Ghana - Empowering civil society organizations and other non-state actors to effectively contribute to forest law compliance in Ghana (completed)

The project was based on solid premises considering the practical challenges of forest law enforcement and compliance in Ghana. It was identified as critical in filling a gap of capacity of civil society and other non-state actors to engage and expose forest law enforcement issues. It has been critical in dovetailing into the FLEGT VPA process as well as other civil society initiatives such as the ClientEarth Legal Working Groups and Proforest training modules on FLEGT verifications. This project was designed principally with CSOs, CBOs and other non-state actors, such as traditional authorities, local communities and individual social activists as primary beneficiaries. CSOs and CBOs were closely involved in project training and field study tours. The training has enhanced their capacity and confidence in terms of issues to look for along the timber supply chain and also on how to engage forest authorities. It is however acknowledged that the participation of communities or community members, recognized as essential for building grass-root vigilantes against illegal appropriation of timber and other forest resources, was not as conspicuous as the executives had hoped. It was suggested by local stakeholders during project field monitoring and evaluation visit to replicate the project for local communities using selected forest reserves as pilot. As primary beneficiary, industry players were involved in project activities through participation in the National Forest Forum. Industry involvement in the forum has improved corporation and relationship with CSOs and CBOs. Traditional Authorities have participated in the forum annually and such participation has strengthened their voices. The resulting communiqué from participants of the forum was presented to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for study and implementation. The project has been associated with the National Forest Forum, a platform established to advocate good governance issues in the forest sector and it has adopted an approach of supporting the participation of industry, for the first time, in the forum. Being an on-going annual conference of relevant stakeholders, the participation of industry and other stakeholders has the impact of enhancing transparency and build dialogue in the sector, which dialogue the Forestry Commission is willing to fund beyond the project period.

TFL-SPD 029/12 Rev.1 (M), Peru - Marketing of timber from legal and sustainable sources by indigenous communities in Ucayali, Peru for the fair trade market (completed)

The project has been completed. A manual of chain of custody procedures has been updated and disseminated 21 operators from 7 communities and the city of Pucallpa have been trained on proper sawing and timber drying techniques and a manual of administrative and accounting procedures developed and implemented. In terms of training 70 community members have been trained in applying business management tools. The company CITEINDIGENA SRL, representing 7 communities operating as Communal Producers Association-Certified Wood (PROMACER) has established a strategic alliance to access the Fairtrade market for certified wood products and the operations plan of CITEINDIGENA SRL has been adapted to Fairtrade standards and CITEINDIGENA SRL has applied for the Fairtrade certification. The sustainability of the activities initialized under this project has been ensured through an agreement between the communities and CITEINDIGENA SRL, which is mutually beneficial. The contribution of AIDER is primarily directed to providing support and capacity building to community members regarding the required forest management plans and to engage with the Fairtrade process, thereby ensuring continuation of the engagement with Fairtrade markets for certified forest products after project completion. The project also has great potential for duplication and replication in Amazonia due to the large number of native communities with forest areas which can develop schemes for community forestry, voluntary forest certification and fair trade.

TFL-SPD 030/12 Rev.1 (M), Peru - Improved governance and implementation of transparent negotiation mechanisms for indigenous community forestry in Atalaya (Ucayali) (completed)

The project has been completed. The project has organized Community Forestry Oversight Atalaya within CORPIAA and developed its rules. CORPIAA has developed the VFC Act which involved all CORPIAA partners

who agreed to form the VFC, all of whom signed the act. The VFC Act has been enrolled/registered in the Public Records Act. The definition of the structure of the VFC has been prepared and approved at a meeting of CORPIAA. The sustainability of project outputs is ensured by the inclusion of the VFC Act in Peru's Public Records, ensuring government recognition of community control over affected forest areas. The strong involvement and engagement of local communities through CORPIAA will continue beyond project completion, as will the inputs and assistance of the implementing agency (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation). A number of technical reports and manuals is available from the ITTO project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/

PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M,I), PNG - Enhancing Forest Law Enforcement in Papua New Guinea (completed)

The project has provided the PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) with a sound basis for implementing a Legality Assurance System that responds to timber procurement policies and stakeholder objectives. A timber tracking and chain of custody system including a timber products database has been developed and pilot-tested in PNG proving that this can be achieved. A legality standard based on FLEGT guidelines and principles, together with an industry code of conduct "template", has been prepared for future implementation in PNG. A set of monitoring tools incorporating the existing PNGFA Logging Code of Practice as reference points in the monitoring forms to enable independent verification. This has also been developed and pilot-tested for assessing forest industry participant compliance with PNG's Timber Legality Standard.

REDDES

RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (F), Cameroon - Participatory development, conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas in the Bamboutos Mountain chain, West Cameroon (completed)

A project proposal, dealing with the project on participatory development, conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas in the Bamboutos Mountain Chain, in the Western Province of Cameroon, was developed and validated by main stakeholders. The proposal entitled '*Participatory Development, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Landscapes in the Bamboutos Highlands, West Cameroon*' was submitted to ITTO. The assessment of the 50th meeting of Expert Panel rated the proposal as Category 2. The pre-project has been dealing with the awareness of key stakeholders on the need to become part of the solution, as most of them had been part of the problem regarding the forest land degradation of the Bamboutos Mountain Range. Those stakeholders have been sensitized on the importance of the participatory approach for the implementation of the future project as a contribution to combat deforestation and forest degradation in the Bamboutos Mountain Range.

RED-SPD 075/12 Rev.1 (F), China - Demonstration on investigation and assessment of typical forest ecotourism resources in Hainan province, China (completed)

The project has produced a reference book entitled 'Guide on Collection for Inventory and Assessment of Forest Recreation Resources in USA' in Chinese in 2015 by China Forestry Publishing House. The project also produced two scientific articles: namely, 1) Research Progress on Classification, Investigation and Evaluation of Forest Tourism Resource (in Chinese) in *World Forestry Research* (2014, 27(6): 8~13); and 2) Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Service: Concepts, Principles, and Indicators (in Chinese) in *Journal of China Agriculture University* (2014, 19(5): 263~268). Furthermore, the project team prepared an article entitled 'The Sustainability of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) of Natural Production Forests: Lessons Learned from Maohui Community, Hainan, China'. The paper was accepted by the 2015 World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa and it is published on the WFC website:

<http://foris.fao.org/wfc2015/api/file/55476332e52d79267e89a5c2/contents/8c0e7665-e133-428a-b2a7-6c446069ee26.pdf>

The project has improved the research capacity of the Executing Agency relating to the development of forest-based ecotourism and enhanced their technical knowledge and skills to conduct tropical forest ecotourism research more effectively. The achievements of the project will contribute to future policy development for ecotourism in south China based on sound methods for investigating and assessing tropical forest ecotourism resources at forest management unit levels. One of the important lessons learned from the implementation of the project includes that support of the local stakeholders, especially local communities in Diaoluoshan National Forest Park and local forestry agency of Hainan Forestry Department was essential to the efficient implementation of a participatory multi-stakeholders consultation process. A combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches was an essential means of implementation of the project activities. To ensure the sustainability of the project after its completion, the Executing Agency has formulated a list of future PES research plans which will be pursued by extending the outcomes and lessons from the project. The Diaoluoshan National Forest Park has also set up a special management unit and extension work framework to maintain and enhance the protection and sustainable management of the demonstration forests in collaboration with local communities in

order to increase the long-term sustainability of the project.

RED-SPD 055/11 Rev.1 (F), Ecuador - Integrating sustainable livelihoods, environmental mortgages, and science-based reforestation for tangible forest conservation change in the Ecuadorian Chocó (completed)

In participating in the pilot community Mono Bravo, 14 of 34 cacao-farming households were formally affiliated with the cooperative formed as a result of this project ('ASMOBRA', Asociacion de Productores Mono Bravo). Direct conservation–livelihood trades have replaced the project's lending component. By the project completion, ASMOBRA had engaged in a total of two conservation–livelihood trades. Of the total 495 hectares of primary forest holdings in pilot community Mono Bravo, 300 hectares are now formally designated as environmental assets under participation in the environmental mortgages program, representing 60.6% of the community's total forest holdings. The project's reforestation component was postponed for post-pilot phases of the program. The project's lending component has been replaced by direct conservation–livelihood trades. Financing required to pay for specific livelihood improvement services was acquired via budget reprogramming and fundraising efforts during the project duration. Currently it is being augmented for post-pilot phases via both further fundraising and a potential voluntary carbon offsets agreement.

RED-PD 064/11 Rev.2 (F), Indonesia - Promoting Local Community Initiative on the Rehabilitation of Mangrove Ecosystem with Demonstration Activities in Bintan Island to Reduce further Deforestation and Forest Degradation (completed)

The project has produced a number of technical reports, including the following:

- Report on the socio-economic condition of Bintan mangrove communities
- Report on Bintan's existing mangrove regulations/policies
- Report on stakeholder coordination activities
- Report on establishment of a mangrove education center

The reports are available from the ITTO database through the ITTO project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/. The project has resulted in increased awareness amongst communities in Bintan on the importance of mangroves and helped to formalize the role of local communities in mangrove planning and policy making in Bintan and elsewhere in Indonesia. Project outputs have provided key inputs to Indonesia's evolving policy on mangrove conservation and sustainable use.

RED-PD 018/09 Rev.1 (F), Peru - Sustainable forest management and utilization of ecosystem services in forests managed by the Ese'Eja naïve community in Infierno, Peru (completed)

Despite of an initial delay mainly due to the validation and verification of the REDD Project Design Document (PDD) developed for the Ese'Eja community forests of Infierno, the project has been able to produce a large number of outputs and products, including the following reports (in Spanish only):

- Estudio socioeconómico de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno.
- Diagnóstico del uso, impacto y actores involucrados con la gestión de los recursos naturales del bosque de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno.
- Guía de campo para la estimación del carbono almacenado en la biomasa de los bosques administrados por la Comunidad Nativa Ese'Eja de Infierno y su concesión de ecoturismo en la Región Madre de Dios
- Estimación del carbono almacenado en la biomasa de los bosques administrados por la Comunidad Nativa Ese'Eja de Infierno y su concesión de ecoturismo en la Región Madre de Dios
- Estimación de los cambios en el carbono almacenado y emisiones de gases efecto invernadero producidas por deforestación no planificada en escenario de línea base de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno –Región Madre de Dios.
- Estudio legal para ratificar y mantener los derechos legales de uso de los recursos del bosque en el territorio comunal y en la concesión de ecoturismo de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno
- Topografía legal de la Comunidad Nativa Ese'Eja Infierno
- Plan de acción para la gestión del bosque de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno
- Memoria Descriptiva del Territorio Comunal de Infierno con Resolución de Reconocimiento.
- Documento de Proyecto (PD) VCS REDD+ "EVIO KUIÑAJI ESE'EJA CUANA, PARA MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, MADRE DE DIOS – PERÚ"
- Anexo metodológico del Documento de Proyecto (PD) VCS REDD+ "EVIO KUIÑAJI ESE'EJA CUANA, PARA MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, MADRE DE DIOS – PERÚ"

- Documento de Diseño de Proyecto (PDD) CCB REDD+ “EVIO KUIÑAJI ESE’EJA CUANA, PARA MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, MADRE DE DIOS – PERÚ”
- Reporte de monitoreo del primer periodo de reducción de emisiones.

These publications, describing the achievements, impacts and lessons learnt of the project are available from the ITTO project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/

Other project achievements and impacts include:

- 11,000 hectares under sustainable forest management. The native community of Infierno implements forest management actions in their community forest.
- One avoided deforestation initiative based on native communities with defined land rights and use of natural resources and 11, 000 hectares of forests with forest cover and changing land use under control.
- One forest landscape restoration initiative: A demonstration project managed by the community was established to recover degraded areas with additional funding from the international cooperation (IICA - Finland).
- The native community of Infierno is to perceive additional revenues derived from a REDD project.
- The native community of Infierno has developed a greater awareness of ecosystem services provided by their community forests.
- The native community of Infierno has become skilled in the REDD, PES, sustainable forest management and forest restoration activities.

RED-PD 033/11 Rev.2 (F), Peru - Value adding to environmental services from managed forests belonging to seven communities in the Ucayali region (completed)

The Executing Agency has produced a number of products, including several studies and technical documents which are available at http://www.itto.int/project_search including the following (in Spanish only):

- Estudio de Estratificación de los Bosques del Área del Proyecto.
- Estimación del Carbono Almacenado en la Biomasa del Bosque de las Comunidades Nativas de Callería, Flor de Ucayali, Bueno Aires, Roya, Curiaca, Pueblo Nuevo del Caco y Puerto Nuevo.
- Plan de campañas de sensibilización comunal sobre la importancia del bosque.
- Plan de capacitación de recursos maderables y no maderables en 07 comunidades nativas de la región Ucayali.
- Plan de Capacitación sobre REDD+.
- Diagnostico Social Económico en Cinco Comunidades Shipibo – Conibo.
- Diagnostico Social Económico en Dos Comunidades Cacataibo.
- Línea base social para el proyecto REDD y evaluación de impactos
- Marco lógico para la elaboración de la estrategia REDD del proyecto.
- Plan de Capacitación en Gestión Empresarial.
- Campañas de Sensibilización Comunal – Informe de Implementación.
- Informe Técnico: Diseño de un proyecto REDD en comunidades nativas

Other project achievements and impacts include:

- 142,247.5 hectares under sustainable forest management in seven Shipibo Conibo indigenous communities in the Peruvian department of Ucayali (Sinchi Roca, Puerto Nuevo, Callería, Flor de Ucayali, Roya, Curiaca and Pueblo Nuevo). The communities implement these forest management actions in their community forest with a view towards reducing current deforestation and forest degradation.
- The seven native communities to perceive additional revenues derived from a validated REDD Project Design Document (PDD) under the CCB, and Verified Carbon Standard, which encompasses 127,004.0 hectares
- The seven native communities have developed a greater awareness of ecosystem services provided by their community forests.
- The seven native communities has become skilled in the REDD, PES, sustainable forest management and forest restoration activities.
- Four communities obtained Voluntary Forest Certifications from the FSC.

CFME

CFM-PPD 006/10 Rev.1 (F), PNG - Enabling customary landowners to participate effectively in CFM and REDD schemes within four pilot areas of PNG (completed)

The pre-project aimed to design a model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that supports CFM schemes within four pilot areas of PNG. The field research findings and recommendations have been incorporated into two technical reports, which are both available through the ITTO project search tool. Technical Report 1 provides an overall assessment of the project's social, economic and environmental baseline data, together with a detailed description of each selected sample area. The findings revealed a diverse project context - with similar strengths and weaknesses at the community level - in which local partners offer target landowners an important link with the outside world; opening up new opportunities for enhancing rural livelihoods. Technical Report 2 shows that assets such as technical capacity, land tenure and environmental data, equipment for recording information, software for analyzing data, and internet connectivity are relevant to the objectives of the project. The PNG Forest Authority then hosted a 3-day project planning workshop to finalize the framework for the development of a full-project with reference to the technical report findings. The resulting full proposal PD 764/14 (F) 'Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes within 6 Pilots Areas of PNG' was rated 'Category 1' by the 45th Expert Panel. It incorporates the lessons learned from the pre-project, including:

- Climate change / REDD+ interventions involves complex, cross-sectoral issues which require multi-stakeholder inputs at all levels (from national to local)
- Governance issues should not be overlooked. In PNG, government processes are often fast-tracked and proper technical appraisal side-lined. Independent technical bodies are needed to guide the development of government policies and strategies.
- Policies, strategies, frameworks, programs and projects should (i) be based on a common foundation to ensure cost-effective, successful outcomes, (ii) focus on priority issues & cost-effective actions, (iii) tackle local level constraints, and involve departments responsible for empowering landowners (e.g. Department of Lands).
- In any REDD+ project, the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process is key. This process will ensure full participation of communities (thus landowners) at all stages of the project cycle. FPIC is an ongoing process that leads to (changing) outcomes all through.
- Need to compile existing lessons from the implementation of clan-based forest management / natural resource management initiatives in the country in order to facilitate the effective design and implementation of REDD+ policies and activities

TMT

TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (M), Guatemala – Strengthening of the forest information system of Guatemala to improve market and trade transparency and decision-making in the forest sector (ongoing)

This project is working closely together with project TFL-PD 024/10 Rev.2 (M) 'Improvement of forest law enforcement at the national level to promote forest governance in Guatemala' and has been able to achieve substantial results. The implementation of Electronic Information System for Forest Enterprises, SEINEF has allowed the National Forest Institute to have positive impacts on the regulation and control of trade in forest products. Since the adoption of SEINEF, the registration of legally established companies has increased by 70% from 1,230 to 2,043 active companies. Of those 2,043 companies, 1,608 are already using the system, representing almost 80% of companies active in the INAB. By the end of 2014 sales of 88.453 bills of transport of forest products were registered, each costing about US\$ 1 (8 quetzales) and thereby generating US\$ 88.453 in additional INAB revenues budget revenue. This revenue allows the system to be self-sustained. The concept of SIFGUA providing an automated process of forestry activities has not only provided a tool to regulatory control institutions (CONAP and INAB) but the objective is also to reduce service times for users, and to eliminate repetitive steps and processes thereby making the procedure faster and more efficient. The new SIFGUA image is presenting the system in a way that allows to reach more users and positions SIFGUA at the national and international level as of reference for information on forestry.

TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M), Guyana – Strengthening market information systems to enhance trade and market intelligence in the forest sector of Guyana (completed)

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

in data process and management time. The completion of three main reports on Critical Data gaps, review of the market framework for trade development in Guyana, and the assessment of factors affecting markets and measures impacting on tropical timber use and, were completed. The Marketing Strategy document and the Report on Competitiveness were completed. The forestry sector of Guyana now has an integrated market information system in place with more detailed reporting capabilities on prices, market demand, export trends, and quality requirements for different regions, which can enhance forecasting in prices levels and demand; and provide a more integrated reporting on the wood products supply chain. There is now better planning and allocation of state forest resources; more strategic marketing efforts in pursuit of expansion of key markets for added value products; macro-economic benefits through improved planning and strategic decision in relation to employment, and increased export earnings. Several strategic areas of the sector: marketing, forest management and planning, and resources allocation, have been receiving positive impact from this project activities.

TMT-SPD 013/12 Rev.1 (M), ITTO – Analysis of the Economic Impact of Governmental Procurement Policies on Tropical Timber Markets (completed)

The project has been reported completed in the TP report to the 50th ITTC. The final report 'The impact of timber procurement policies: an analysis of the economic effects of governmental procurement policies in tropical timber markets' has been published in March 2015 under the ITTO Technical Series, TS44 and is available for download from the ITTO website at http://www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=4359&no=1&disp=inline

5. Follow-up on the Decision 4 (XLVIII), Strengthening the ITTO Thematic Programmes

Following-up on Decision 4 (XLVIII), Strengthening the ITTO Thematic Programmes, the Thematic Programme section of the ITTO website had been revised. Within the framework of the overall revision of the ITTO website and IT systems under BWP Activity 19 to further enhance public relations, education and outreach activities and Activity 21 on Knowledge Management, this revision is continuing. Development and testing of the new website is ongoing. The report of the study synthesizing the aggregated achievements of the projects under the ITTO Thematic Programmes on a) Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services (REDDES) and b) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET) towards the respective programmatic objectives has been circulated to all members and will be presented to the Council together with this progress report under Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda. While the study was initially thought to be based on only the completed projects under REDDES and TFLET, its scope has been expanded to include ongoing projects and also some relevant projects from the regular cycle. It has assessed the programmatic coverage (and quality) of the work done in relation to the Council approved TFLET Programme Document (TPD) and the Monitoring Protocols (MP) including the identification of potential gaps. It also attempts to assess the complementarity of REDDES and TFLET with other related initiatives at international level and to identify the TP added value. Lessons learned and effectiveness of knowledge sharing (incl. replicability, innovation, communication, etc.) have been identified. The report provides key conclusions and recommendations on strengthening the programmatic approach and as appropriate provides suggestions for adjustments to the programme strategy. The Executive Summary of the consultant's report is attached to this document as Annex II.

Table 4: Approved projects by Thematic Programme (by country in alphabetical order)

TFLET approved projects				
Submitted by	Project ID	Title	ITTO Funding	Status (reported at)
BWP 2008/2009	PP-A/43-193	Enhance capacity of small and medium size enterprises to produce and trade timber from legally and sustainable source	\$ 300,000	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
BWP 2008/2009	PP-A/43-194	Promote trade in tropical timber and tropical timber products from sustainably managed and legally harvested sources	\$ 600,000	*Completed (50 th ITTC)
BWP 2008/2009	PP-A/43-200	Provide technical assistance for selected poor local/indigenous communities to formulate project proposals for submission to ITTO for management of forests and sustainable timber production	\$ 100,000	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
BWP 2008/2009	PP-A/43-202	Global assessment of the status of tropical forest tenure with identification of trends and implications for investment and management, and for convening an expert workshop on Tropical Forest Tenure and Business Models, including formulation of a project to assist Civil Society Organization(s) to set up and operate on a pilot basis a remote sensing system to detect illegal logging activities in areas known to be critically affected by such activities	\$ 200,000	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
Africa	PD 124/01 Rev. 2 (M) Phase II – Stage 2	Promotion of Sustainable Management of African Forests (ITTO/ATO)	\$ 544,070	*Completed (46 th ITTC)
Australia	TFL-PD 037/13 Rev. 2 (M)	Implementing a DNA timber tracking system in Indonesia	\$518,833	Ongoing
Cambodia	PD 493/07 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (Cambodia)	\$561,195	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
Cameroon	TFL-PD 003/09 Rev.2 (M)	Improving governance and transparency of timber harvests and trade in Cameroon	\$365,526	Ongoing
Cameroon	TFL-PD 014/09 Rev.1 (M)	Reduction of illegal logging through better governance of community forests in the Lom et Djerem Division, East region, Cameroon	\$302,562	Ongoing
China	TFL-PD 017/09 Rev.2 (M)	Equipping small and medium sized forestry enterprises in China for procurement of tropical timber from legal and sustainably managed forests	\$322,056	Completed
Colombia	TFL-PPD 001/09 Rev.2 (M)	Implementing and promoting sustainable forest management through formulation of an action plan for improved forest law enforcement and governance in Colombia	\$91,498	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
Germany	TFL-PPD 023/10 Rev.1 (F)	Development and implementation of a species identification and timber tracking system in Africa with DNA fingerprints and stable isotopes	\$155,522	*Completed (47 th ITTC)
Ghana	TFL-SPD 007/09 Rev.1 (M)	Strengthening the capacity of small-medium enterprises in Ghana to produce and trade in timber products from legal and sustainable sources	\$163,039	*Completed (49 th ITTC)
Ghana	TFL-SPD 028/12 Rev.1 (M)	Empowering civil society organizations and other non-state actors to effectively contribute to forest law compliance in Ghana	\$147,701	Completed
Guatemala	TFL-PD 024/10 Rev.2 (M)	Improvement of forest law enforcement at the national level to promote forest governance in Guatemala	\$563,339	Ongoing
Guatemala	TFL-SPD 040/13 Rev.2 (M)	Development of a program to strengthen the traceability of legally sourced forest products in Guatemala	\$74,586	Ongoing
Guatemala	TFL-PPD 045/13 Rev. 2 (M)	Improving forest product monitoring and efficiency through the development of a program to enhance the performance of the primary forest processing industry	\$66,942	Ongoing
Indonesia	TFL-PD 010/09 Rev.1 (M)	Strengthening the capacity of related stakeholders in Java on implementing new Indonesian TLAS	\$474,163	*Completed (50 th ITTC)
Indonesia	TFL-PD 019/10 Rev.2 (M)	Developing collaborative management in the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve, West Java Indonesia	\$496,670	*Completed (50 th ITTC)
Indonesia	TFL-PD 032/13 Rev. 2 (M)	Strengthening the Capacity of Local Institutions to Sustainably Manage community Forestry in Sanggau for Improving Livelihood	\$456,680	Ongoing
Indonesia	TFL-PD 033/13 Rev. 2 (M)	Strengthening the governance of community forest through improved capacity to adequately perform timber administration in Java and Nusa Tenggara region in Indonesia	\$495,880	Ongoing

*reported completed to ITTC or sunset; not included in Annex 1

TFLET approved projects				
Submitted by	Project ID	Title	ITTO Funding	Status (reported at)
Mali	TFL-SPD 038/13 Rev.3 (M)	Capacity-building programme to foster law enforcement and local governance over timber use and marketing activities in the Segou region, Mali	\$149,707	Ongoing
Panama	TFL-PD 044/13 Rev.2 (M)	Strengthening of ANAM's management capacity to reduce illegal logging and trade in the eastern region of Panama (Bayano and Darien) through monitoring and control mechanisms	\$412,556	Pending Agreement
Peru	PPD 138/07 Rev.1 (M)	Verifying the Legality of Timber Forest Products in Peru	\$79,844	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
Peru	TFL-SPD 029/12 Rev.1 (M)	Marketing of timber from legal and sustainable sources by indigenous communities in Ucayali, Peru for the fair trade market	\$137,941	Completed
Peru	TFL-SPD 030/12 Rev.1 (M)	Improved governance and implementation of transparent negotiation mechanisms for indigenous community forestry in Atalaya (Ucayali), Peru	\$131,236	Completed
PNG	PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M,I)	Enhancing Forest Law Enforcement in Papua New Guinea	\$ 473,040	Completed
PNG	TFL-SPD 043/13 Rev. 1 (M)	Chain of Custody Verification for Timber Processors in Papua New Guinea	\$147,280	Inception Phase
Thailand	TFL-PPD 005/09 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening the capacity of local communities of Chaiyapum Province (Thailand) to manage community forest	\$56,970	*Sunset

*reported completed to ITTC or sunset; not included in Annex I

REDD approved projects				
Submitted by	Project ID	Title	ITTO Funding	Status (reported at)
Brazil	RED-PD 029/09 Rev.1 (F)	Monitoring deforestation, logging and land use change in the Pan Amazonian Forest - PANAMAZON II	\$1,124,784	Ongoing
Brazil	RED-SPD 058/11 Rev.2 (F)	Developing REDD+ES in the Brazilian Atlantic Rain Forest	\$142,110	Pending Agreement
Cameroon	RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (F)	Participatory development, conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas in the Bamboutos Mountain chain, West Cameroon	\$73,613	Completed
Cameroon	RED-PPD 051/11 Rev.1 (F)	Contribution to the implementation of REDD mechanisms by enhancing the participation of stakeholders in sustainable forest management in Cameroon	\$81,864	*Completed (49 th ITTC)
Cameroon	RED-PPD 074/12 Rev.1 (F)	Identification of a project on gender mainstreaming in the development of actions to control deforestation and forest degradation, to improve the well-being of communities dependent on forests and other ecosystems in Central and West Africa	\$101,117	*Completed (50 th ITTC)
China	RED-SPD 020/09 Rev.1 (F)	Development and demonstration on scheme of payment for environmental services (PES) derived from degraded and secondary tropical production forests in China.	\$149,040	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
China	RED-SPD 075/12 Rev.1 (F)	Demonstration on investigation and assessment of typical forest ecotourism resources in Hainan province, China	\$145,800	Completed
DRC	RED-A 023/09 Rev.1 (F)	Technical Support for the Development of a National Forest Inventory in the Democratic Republic of Congo to assess carbon stocks and changes in carbon stocks of forest land	\$476,820	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
Ecuador	RED-SPD 055/11 Rev.1 (F)	Integrating sustainable livelihoods, environmental mortgages, and science-based reforestation for tangible forest conservation change in the Ecuadorian Chocó	\$149,922	Completed
Ghana	RED-PD 026/09 Rev.1 (F)	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation through collaborative management with local communities	\$658,716	Ongoing
Ghana	RED-SPD 077/12 Rev.1 (F)	Rehabilitation of degraded forests for sustainable wood fuel production and climate change mitigation in the forest-savanna transition zone of Ghana	\$121,662	Ongoing
Ghana	RED-PD 093/12 Rev.3 (F)	Advancing REDD+ in Ghana: preparation of REDD+ pilot schemes in off-reserve forests and agro-forests	\$297,205	Ongoing
Guatemala	RED-PPD 006/09 Rev.2 (F)	Local REDDES programme for development and addressing climate change in Guatemala: Building social processes for sustainability	\$82,080	*Completed (49 th ITTC)

*reported completed to ITTC or sunset; not included in Annex I

REDDES approved projects				
Submitted by	Project ID	Title	ITTO Funding	Status (reported at)
Guatemala	RED-SPD 079/12 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening of governance and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in Guatemala as a climate change adaptation measure	\$146,751	Ongoing
Guyana	RED-PD 005/09 Rev.2 (F)	Strengthening Guyana's capacity to manage forest resources and environmental services through resources assessment and monitoring changes in deforestation and degradation	\$400,680	<i>*Completed (48th ITTC)</i>
Honduras/ Guatemala	RED-PPD 041/11 Rev.2 (F)	Designing a Programme for Capacity Building and Meaningful Stakeholder Participation in Forest Governance and REDD+ in Honduras and Guatemala	\$144,650	<i>*Completed (50th ITTC)</i>
Indonesia	RED-PD 007/09 Rev.2 (F)	Enhancing forest carbon stock to reduce emission from deforestation and degradation through sustainable forest management (SFM) initiatives in Indonesia	\$447,071	<i>*Completed (48th ITTC)</i>
Indonesia	RED-SPD 009/09 Rev.2 (F)	Promoting the partnership efforts to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation of tropical peatland in south Sumatra through the enhancement of conservation and restoration activities	\$149,493	<i>*Completed (50th ITTC)</i>
Indonesia	RED-PD 064/11 Rev.2 (F)	Promoting Local Community Initiative on the Rehabilitation of Mangrove Ecosystem with Demonstration Activities in Bintan Island to Reduce further Deforestation and Forest Degradation	\$504,317	Completed
ITTO	RED-A 004/09 Rev.1 (F)	Building a voluntary carbon marketing scheme to promote sustainable forest management	\$97,180	<i>*Completed (46th ITTC)</i>
ITTO	RED-PA 056/11 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening the capacity of ITTO producer countries in Africa in generating and disseminating scientific information on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services from Forests	\$253,120	<i>*Completed (50th ITTC)</i>
ITTO	RED-PA 069/11 Rev.1 (F)	Quantifying the REDD+ effect of ITTO projects	\$143,510	<i>Completed *(50th ITTC)</i>
Liberia	RED-SPD 084/12 Rev.1 (F)	Improving efficacy of forestry policies and activities in Liberia through REDD+ demonstration projects	\$149,922	Ongoing
Malaysia	RED-PD 037/11 Rev.2 (F)	Reducing forest degradation and emissions through sustainable forest management (SFM) in peninsular Malaysia	\$590,922	Ongoing
Mexico	RED-PD 045/11 Rev.2 (M)	Environmental assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by coastal forests (mangrove forests, flood forests, rain forests and scrub forests on dunes) and their agricultural replacement systems on the central coastal plain of Veracruz, Mexico	\$470,682	Ongoing
Myanmar	RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F)	Capacity building for developing REDD+ activities in the context of sustainable forest management	\$571,890	Ongoing
Peru	RED-PD 018/09 Rev.1 (F)	Sustainable forest management and utilization of ecosystem services in forests managed by the Ese'Eja naïve community in Infierno, Peru	\$356,519	Completed
Peru	RED-PD 033/11 Rev.2 (F)	Value adding to environmental services from managed forests belonging to seven communities in the Ucayali region	\$415,384	Completed
Thailand	RED-SPD 039/11 Rev.1 (F)	Improving the quality and coverage of the estimates of carbon stocks in Thailand's forests and trees outside forest: Phase I	\$113,373	<i>*Sunset</i>
Togo	RED-PD 031/11 Rev.1 (F)	Rehabilitation and restoration of residual forests and arid savannah lands in the Akpé and Akama valleys	\$478,894	Ongoing
Togo	RED-SPD 092/12 Rev.1 (F)	Reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the Natchambonga and Djiyega community forests by promoting participatory forest management actions	\$149,904	Ongoing

**reported completed to ITTC or sunset; not included in Annex I*

CFME approved projects				
Submitted by	Project ID	Title	ITTO Funding	Status (reported at)
Ghana	CFM-SPD 007/10 Rev.1 (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	\$149,229	*Completed (49 th ITTC)
Indonesia	CFM-PD 001/10 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening capacity of stakeholders for the development of community-based plantation forest at 3 selected areas in Indonesia	\$465,151	*Completed (50 th ITTC)
ITTO	CFM-PA 009/10 Rev.2 (F)	International Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Small and Medium Forest Enterprises with Focus in the Asia Pacific	\$200,000	*Completed (47 th ITTC)
PNG	CFM-PPD 006/10 Rev.1 (F)	Enabling customary landowners to participate effectively in CFM and REDD schemes within four pilot areas of PNG	\$122,040	Completed
Thailand	CFM-PPD 005/10 Rev.1 (M)	Increasing access to markets and capital for teak plantation smallholders in Thailand	\$31,104	*Sunset

*reported completed to ITTC or sunset, not included in Annex I

TMT approved projects				
	Project ID	Title	ITTO Funding	Status (reported at)
Cameroon	TMT-SPD 020/15 (M)	Support to ANAFOR for the Optimal Operation of the <i>P. Elata</i> (Assamela) Management Data Base in Cameroon	\$113,400	Ongoing
China	TMT-SPD 023/15 Rev.1 (M)	Supporting SMEs and Importers of Tropical Timber for Better Understanding of CITES and the need to Comply with CITES Rules in China	\$150,000	Ongoing
Congo	TMT-SPD 021/15 (I)	Establishment of a Monitoring Centre for the Industrial use of <i>P. Elata</i> in the Congo Republic	\$130,000	Ongoing
France	TMT-SPD 010/12 Rev.1 (M)	Preparation of the publication "atlas of tropical timber species – 1 st Edition: Technological characteristics and uses of 273 tropical timber species (and 17 temperate species)	\$138,033	Ongoing
Gabon	TMT-SPD 011/12 Rev.2 (M)	Adaptation and application at the national scale of the Trace Bois-Gabon (Gabon timber tracking) for the collection and processing of forest and timber statistics in Gabon	\$138,996	Sunset
Ghana	TMT-SPD 012/12 Rev.1 (M)	Improving intra-African trade and market transparency in timber and timber products	\$111,931	Ongoing
Ghana	TMT-SPD 017/15 Rev. 2 (M)	Improving Sustainable <i>Pericopsis elata</i> Conservation and Trade Regulation in Ghana	\$149,997	Ongoing
Global	TMT-SPD 022/15 (M)	Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification system for all CITES-listed <i>Dalbergia</i> species and a feasibility study for <i>Diospyros</i> and look-alike species	\$200,000	Pending Agreement
Guatemala	TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (M)	Strengthening of the forest information system of Guatemala to improve market and trade transparency and decision-making in the forest sector.	\$359,716	Ongoing
Guyana	TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M)	Strengthening market information systems to enhance trade and market intelligence in the forest sector of Guyana	\$320,920	Completed
Guyana	TMT-SPD 014/13 Rev.1 (M)	Enhancing the Sustainable Management and Commercial Utilisation of the CITES-listed Species <i>Cedrela Odorata</i> (Red Cedar) in Guyana	\$136,640	Ongoing
ITTO	TMT-SPD 002/10 Rev.1 (M)	Improving resilience of the tropical timber sector to the impacts of global and regional economic and financial crises	\$150,000	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
ITTO	TMT-PA 007/11 Rev.1 (I)	Methodological Development for Life Cycle Analysis of Tropical Wood Products to Improve their Competitiveness in International Markets	\$60,116	*Completed (48 th ITTC)
ITTO	TMT-SPD 013/12 Rev.1 (M)	Analysis of the Economic Impact of Governmental Procurement Policies on Tropical Timber Markets	\$150,000	Completed (50 th ITTC)

*reported completed to ITTC or sunset, not included in Annex I

Table 5: TP projects by country/region

Country/Region	TFLET	REDDES	CFME	TMT	Funded projects	Funding US\$
Cameroon	2	3		1	6	1,038,082
Congo				1	1	130,000
DRC		1			1	476,820
<i>Gabon</i>				<i>(1)*</i>	<i>(1)*</i>	<i>(138,996)*</i>
Ghana	2	3	1	2	8	1,799,480
Liberia		1			1	149,922
Mali	1				1	149,707
Togo		2			2	628,798
Africa Total	5	10	1	4(1)	20(1)	4,372,809
Australia	1				1	518,833
China	1	2		1	4	766,896
Indonesia	4	3	1		8	3,489,425
Malaysia		1			1	590,922
Myanmar		1			1	571,890
PNG	1		1		2	269,320
<i>Thailand</i>	<i>(1)*</i>	<i>(1)*</i>	<i>(1)*</i>		<i>(3)*</i>	<i>(201,447)*</i>
Asia Pacific Total	7(1)	7(1)	2(1)	1	17(3)	6,207,286
Brazil		2			2	1,266,894
Colombia	1				1	91,498
Ecuador		1			1	149,922
Guatemala	3	2		1	6	1,293,414
Guyana		1		2	3	858,240
Honduras/Guatemala		1			1	144,650
Mexico		1			1	470,682
Panama	1				1	412,556
Peru	2	2			4	1,041,080
Latin America Total	7	10		3	20	5,728,936
TFLET pre-cursor	8				8	2,792,998
France				1	1	138,033
Germany	1				1	155,522
Global				1	1	200,000
ITTO Secretariat		3	1	3	7	1,053,926
Others Total	9	3	1	5	18	4,340,479
	28(1)	30(1)	4(1)	13(1)	75(4)	20,649,510

* projects gone into sunset (not counted in the totals)

ANNEX I

STATUS OF APPROVED ACTIVITIES, PRE-PROJECTS, SMALL PROJECTS AND PROJECTS

(Projects reported completed to earlier sessions of the ITTC and projects in 'sunset' are not included)

TFLET

Implementing a DNA timber tracking system in Indonesia

Project number:	TFL-PD 037/13 Rev. 2 (M)	
Project country:	Australia	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 549,763
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 518,833
	INAB	US\$ 30,793
Submitted by:	Government of Australia	
Implementing agency:	University of Adelaide, Australia	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Illegal logging and associated trade are the cause of many economic and ecological problems both in timber producer and timber consumer countries. The key problem to be addressed by this project is the weak capacity in forest law enforcement. DNA marker methods use characters inherent in the timber (i.e. impossible to falsify) and guarantee a method, which is cost effective and statistically robust, for controlling the origin of wood and wood products. The project will develop a species identification and timber tracking system using DNA methods for important Indonesian timber tree species, the red meranti group; and light red Meranti. For two of these species leaf, cambium and wood samples will be collected from across their distribution area and gene markers will be developed that differentiate genetically between trees of different locations and also work for processed timber. The samples will be screened for DNA markers and provide a genetic reference data base to control the region of origin. Using DNA-fingerprints a tree by tree approach to control the chain of custody will also be applied for light red meranti in cooperation with timber companies in Indonesia. As measures of capacity building and technology transfer, staff from the Indonesian partners will be trained to apply DNA-techniques to perform simple DNA tests to check origin. The University of Adelaide in Australia is the executive agency and will work closely with CFBTI in FORDA and other institutes from Indonesia, Germany and USA.

Progress:

The project agreement has been signed in September 2014 and implementation has started on 12 August 2015. The first PSC meeting will be held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 24 November 2015.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Improving governance and transparency of timber harvests and trade in Cameroon

Project number:	TFL-PD 003/09 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Cameroon	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 418,626
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 365,526
	Traffic International:	US\$ 53,100
Submitted by:	Government of Cameroon	
Implementing agency:	Traffic International	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 2 nd Cycle (2009)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project is designed to contribute to the improvement of governance and transparency of timber harvest and traded in Cameroon and internationally by strengthening the national process for controlling illegal logging and associated trade in Cameroon in order to contribute to transparency of timber trade in Cameroon with a view to address the problems of unsustainable timber harvesting, weak forest law enforcement and illegal trade of the country's timber.

Progress:

The project has initially experienced a substantial delay. Although the project agreement has been signed on 22 March 2010, the project implementation only commenced on 12 October 2011. The delay was due to the need for revisions to the work plan and the inception report, and arrangements between the Executing Agency and the collaborating counterparts at MINFOF, Cameroon.

Activities carried out over the reporting period include:

- A total of 22 MINFOF officials benefited from two training of trainer's workshops organized by the project. Part of the workshop involved the review of the training modules on law enforcement developed by a consultant recruited by the project. Inputs from workshop have been incorporated in the final version of the manual.
- Forty three (43) officials from Finance (Customs and Tax), Justice, Police and Gendarmerie were trained in three training of trainer's workshops.
- Train forest logging companies in relevant FLE aspects of their work completed with the participation of six logging companies including representative of logging companies and Douala sea port timber's parks in the first training of trainer's workshop.
- A study to gather information on timber routes was carried out, a report is available with maps identifying new timber routes.
- A draft report on the interagency national coordination committee workplan was prepared.
- Establishment of an interagency coordination committee for FLE was not completed. However, the terms of reference were prepared with strong recommendation that it should be managed by the prime minister office since it involves several ministries.
- A draft code of conduct and professional ethics for forest controllers in Cameroon has also been produced.
- A draft report on status of the traceability systems in Cameroon produced and available.
- An information system for the monitoring of forest products trade was developed and report prepared.
- Actual field work focused on the update of the IT data management system at MINFOF for communication to public and transparency promotion.

The Executing Agency has submitted the draft completion report, technical reports and is working on the final audit report.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

A total of four training of trainer's workshops on forest law enforcement, forest regulation and control were conducted that befitted more than one hundred participants of whom sixty-five were direct beneficiaries and the rest indirect stakeholders.

The project developed a manual on forest legislation and control with five modules based on the various capacity building workshops organized by the project. Five studies were conducted and are annexed to this report on the following i) to update timber trade routes in the country; ii) to evaluate the status FLE monitoring in Cameroon; iii) to review the timber traceability system in Cameroon; iv) to develop a work plan for FLE and v) to develop an information management and communication to the public on illegal timber trade activities to foster transparency.

The project has also produced 2 maps of the main timber trade roads as part of the study and a code of conduct and professional ethics has also been prepared as an annex to the study to the monitoring of FLW in Cameroon. In order to foster relations between relevant stakeholders, an agreement has been reached to put in place a National Coordination Unit on forest law enforcement under the auspices of the Prime Minister Offices.

Those significant achievements have resulted in the improvements in improved capacity and forest law enforcement as compared to the period before the project. Stakeholders were trained, informed and sensitized on forestry law and the fight against illegal logging and associated trade. The various government stakeholders in the agencies now know their roles and responsibilities of better, and how and where and when they should collaborate based on their mandate and legal frameworks.

Reduction of illegal logging through better governance of community forests in the Lom et Djerem Division, East region, Cameroon

Project number:	TFL-PD 014/09 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Cameroon	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 355,062
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 302,562
	Government of Cameroon:	US\$ 52,500
Submitted by:	Government of Cameroon	
Implementing agency:	Forestry Department, Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife (MINFOF)	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 2 nd Cycle (2009)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

This project seeks to reduce illegal logging and poverty in the Lom and Djerem Division through better governance and development of community forestry. The specific objectives include to sufficiently satisfy the demand of wood in the north and neighboring countries through better organization of timber markets and promotion of the creation and implementation of legal timber titles; and to reduce poverty at the community level through good governance in managing existing community forest and micro-development projects in the Lom and Djerem Division. The expected outputs are:

- to assist 6 communities in obtaining and managing community forests;
- to sensitize the Lom and Djerem councils on the creation of council forests;
- to supply the Northern markets with sawmill residues;
- to better understand and disseminate the timber market chain from Lom and Djerem to the Northern regions;
- to put in place a wood tracking system from the Koundi community forest;
- to reinforce the capacities of members of the Koundi community in increasing and better managing revenues from their forest; and
- to sensitize all actors on legal wood trade; and
- to install and have a functional Coordination Unit in place

Progress:

Following the project implementation in January 2011, the project has experienced a delay in project Year 2 due various factors, including the transfer/re-assignment of several officials (in charge of the project) within the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife and difficulties to comply with reporting requirements. In addition some negative impacts of bad weather particularly at the project site in the Eastern Region.

The following project activities have been carried out:

- Two sensitization meetings held with strong representation and very active participation of the local communities, organized by both MINFOF and Forum in Diang and Belabo respectively.
- The six local communities selected to participate in the project include: Moundi, Mbeth II and Kanda (in the Diang Sub-Division); Ndjangané-Adiah, Belabo -Ekak-Yoa village and Mambaya (in the Belabo Sub-Division).
- Six management entities were created by the selected local communities. These include the TANG BALA CIG in Moundi, the BWOK CIG in Mbeth II, the FOFFA CIG in Kanda, the NA CIG in Ndjangané-Adiah, the BEY CIG in Ekak-Yoa Village (Belabo) and the NYALODJO'O CIG in Mambaya. These groupings have to date, all gained legal recognition under the adopted appellation of 'Community Initiative Group' (CIG).

- The species inventory of the community forest allocated to the FOFFA CIG in Kanda has been completed.
- The communes/counties of Lom and Djerem are sensitized for the creation commune's/county's forests;
- Northern regions are supplied with residues of sawmills;
- The trade channel of timber products from Lom and Djerem to northern regions is identified and disseminated/publicized;
- The chain-of-custody system for timber products from the existing community forest of the village of Koundi is established;
- The capacity of the member of the advisory committee of the village of Koundi is reinforced for the management of revenue from their community forest;
- All stakeholders are sensitized on legal timber trade
- A coordination structure is established
- Assist 06 communities (FOFA GIC, GIC BWOK of MBETH II, TANG GIC, GIC NYIALODJO'O, GIC and GIC NA BEY) to develop simple management plan for the forest;
- Organized training workshops on economic opportunities to use wood waste plants;
- Facilitated collaboration between communities and logging companies on the recovery of wood residues from plants;
- Sensitized communities and traders on the results of the detailed study of marketing channels between Lom and Djerem and the Region;
- Established an information system on the timber market;
- A system of traceability of wood from the community forest Koundi is established;
- Created a database for the community forest Koundi;
- Established a system of traceability of the community forest Koundi;
- Trained communities on better utilization of non-timber forest products;
- Strengthened the capacity of members of the management office of the community forest Koundi, financial management and management of micro-projects;

The latest progress report for the project is still pending from the Executing Agency.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The Government of Cameroon will get information for the formulation elaboration of the appropriate policy aiming to mitigate the problem of illegal logging in Cameroon in compliance with international regulations.

Regions and Departments near Lom and Djerem will benefit from the chain-of-custody system established for timber products trade to address similar problems.

Local communities will have fair access and rights to forest resources, for poverty reduction Lom and Djerem through good governance and good management of community forests with a significant impact on local development.

Communities have their capacity to negotiate with timber traders improved. Northern regions and neighboring countries will be supplied with legal timber products

During the implementation of the project, training workshops on economic opportunities to use wood waste plants, better utilization of non-timber forest products, and capacity of members of the management office of the community forest were carried out. In the meantime, the information system on the timber market, the system of traceability of wood from the community forest Koundi, the database for the community forest Koundi, and the system of traceability of the community forest Koundi were established. These achievements will contribute to addressing the problem of illegal logging in this country.

Equipping small and medium sized forestry enterprises in China for procurement of tropical timber from legal and sustainably managed forests

Project number:	TFL-PD 017/09 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	China	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 505,036
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 322.056
	Government of China:	US\$ 112.820
	Industry Association (China):	US\$ 70.160
Submitted by:	Government of China	
Implementing agency:	Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry (CAF)	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 3 rd Cycle (2010)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Small and medium sized wood processing enterprises (SMFEs) in China play a vital role in the domestic and international markets for processing wood products as they account for around 90% of the total output value of China's timber enterprises. The project will provide the means for SMFEs to become equipped for procurement of timber from legal and sustainably managed tropical forests. SMFEs in Zhangjiagang in the Jiangsu Province, Huzhou and Jiashan in the Zhejiang province and in Shanghai will be surveyed to assess the status of their procurement management. Training and advice will be delivered to enterprises along with information (via a technical bulletin) on marketing, trade, procurement and corporate social responsibility. Policy suggestions will be made and selected SMFEs will be guided through COC certification. A web-based platform for better communication between SMFEs, government and other stakeholders will be established.

Progress:

The project implementation formally commenced on 1 May 2011 and the project is well on track in accordance with the work plan. The following activities have been carried out:

- The new SMFEs-Government stakeholder Information exchange platform has been set up under the name 'Forest Products Index Mechanism'.
- The periodical information exchange activities between SMFEs and Government officials based on monthly data and policy exchange had been set up.
- Web structure and function designed, and website information updates are in execution.
- Reports on "China's tropical timber processing SMFEs and their opportunities for procurement of timber from legal and sustainable managed forest" and "Policy suggestions for promoting procurement of timber from legal and sustainable managed forest in SMFEs" have been completed and translated.
- Disseminate information on issues related to procurement of tropical timber from legal and sustainably managed forest and technology for China's SMFEs has been carried out through Shanghai Timber Newsletter was released periodically every two month.
- The training course on Policies, Regulations and Technology about procurement of timber from legal and sustainably managed forest seminar was held on 10th July 2013 in Beijing and more than 20 participants including officials from SFA, experts from Universities, NGOs and Associations and enterprises.
- The specific proposal for the International Workshop on "procurement of timber from legal and sustainably managed forest and trade of international tropical forest products: challenges and opportunities for SFMEs" was confirmed. The international representatives from tropical timber producing countries, the domestic representatives and other participants will be invited.
- The monthly policy and information exchange platform between SMFEs and stakeholders-the Chinese Forest Product Index Mechanism(FPI) continued to support the online forum.

- A bulletin on issues related to international market demands and trends on procurement of timber products from legal and sustainably managed forest and US, EU and Japan timber market reports on legal and sustainably managed forest were disseminated to China's SMFEs every month for 17 issues (6 issues in this period).
- Website information updates are in execution
- The Workshop on "New environment for the timber industry: change, responsibility, challenges and opportunity" was held. 150 participants, including the international representatives from tropical timber producing countries and domestic representatives attended the workshop on 23-25 October 2013.
- The monthly timber products index, FPI Index, has been released since April 2012, totally there were 27 indexes reports (6 issues in this period) has been issued to the public every month, many public medium and website transfer it every month.
- The ITTO Tropical Timber Market (TTM) Report, an output of the ITTO Market Information Service (MIS), has been translated into Chinese and disseminated for China's SMFEs every month for 7 issues since December 2013.
- Taking the advantage of mobile internet, "We-Chat" as a famous and influential Chinese social mobile network which has more than 600 million user has been incorporated into FPI system. We launched a FPI "We-Chat Public Account" network which both spread the information and gather readers feedback in supporting the more efficient information exchange between SMFEs and Government officials.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

This project has provided the means for a close look at Chinese SMFEs especially in the wood flooring manufacture area in Yangzi River Delta and for finding the gaps in understanding between the EU and US market demand and the capability of Chinese SMFEs to satisfy these demands.

In terms of filling gaps and helping improve Chinese SMFEs understanding of legality issues and in ensuring only legal timber is processed this project has made a valuable contribution in the following aspects:

- The establishment of the Forest Products Index Mechanism (FPI)-the Government-Enterprises forum, which involves government agencies, associations, research institutes and timber product enterprises, is the first timber information exchange mechanism and online forum in China. The FPI was launched in March 2012 and well operated and attracted attentions from across the timber sector and the press.
- The project has received recognition by both the US and Chinese sides through the China-USA Strategic Economic Dialogue held in 2012 and 2013. The project was briefed to the dialogue by introducing the background, objectives, implementation status and impact.
- The project provided a basic 'platform' (FPI) and channel for Chinese SMFEs, especially flooring processing SMFEs located in Yangtze River Delta area to better appreciate international timber regulations. The project also identified SMFEs weaknesses and helped improve Government communication channels as well as the flow of market information. An increasing number of SMFEs is receiving the periodic bulletin information to obtain market information as well as sustainable information and policies of EU and US and global timber trade situation.
- An increasing number of SMFEs is receiving periodic information through website to obtain market information as well as sustainable information and policies of EU and US. An increasing number of SMFEs have made certain communications through the channel bulletin and website to communication with the government. Beside these, the 'platform' also provides a channel for stakeholder communication. Some associations have connected to this project through the FPI 'platform and these associations have helped the EA to connect with SMFEs and timber enterprises.
- As the trends of using mobile internet is becoming more and more common and has changed communication patterns in China particularly since the end of 2013, the EA tried to incorporate the mobile internet into the activities in order to maximize the coverage and impacts of the project output. The FPI "We-Chat" public account was launched in April 2014 in the mobile internet and was connected to the FPI website. Through the public account on the mobile internet, FPI data and information have been timely exchanged and widely spread with an increasing number of users.

Empowering civil society organizations and other non-state actors to effectively contribute to forest law compliance in Ghana

Project number:	TFL-SPD 028/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 188.456
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 147.701
	Government of Ghana:	US\$ 40.355
	Others:	US\$ 400
Submitted by:	Government of Ghana	
Implementing agency:	WWF West Africa Forest Programme	
Duration:	18 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

Ineffective forest law enforcement and the consequent non-compliance undermine the rule of law, reinforce forest level corruption and represent major threats to the forest ecosystems and the associated biodiversity in Ghana. Ineffective forest law enforcement also threatens the livelihoods of local communities and undermines the efforts of both private and public sector organizations to develop sustainable approaches to forest management. It is acknowledged that civil society organizations and other non-state actors can play a critical role in ensuring effective forest law enforcement in Ghana. However, civil society and other non-state actors in the country have insufficient knowledge of the established models of legality and sustainability requirements as well as practical forest operations along the timber supply chain. In addition, civil society organizations' knowledge of modern tools of engagement with forest authorities leaves much to be desired. This makes it nearly impossible for civil society and other non-state actors to play the watchdog role effectively. This intervention is intended to build capacity of civil society organizations and other non-state actors on established models of legality and sustainability requirements, modern tools of engagement and to raise interest of the general public in forest law enforcement so as to widen compliance with and enforcement of forest laws in the country. The intervention which will be implemented in the forest zone of Ghana will emphasize a paradigm shift to a proactive civil society that is ready to defend the rights of the poor and to ensure that responsible forest management is not unduly sacrificed

Progress:

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to sustainable development and improved governance in the forest sector of Ghana. Improved governance in the forestry sector has a replica effect on general governance environment in the country. Specifically, the project has the objective to build capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) & other non-state actors (NSAs) to contribute to forest law compliance in Ghana through better understanding of the statutory and sustainability requirements along the timber supply chain as well as training on approaches and methods of engaging forest authorities and forest managers.

To achieve the project specific objective, the following approaches and strategies were employed:

Strategic partnerships: The project brought together WWF, NDF, the Forestry Commission of Ghana (as illustrative by the Agreement between ITTO, Government of Ghana and WWF and the sub-contract agreement between WWF and NDF), Fabi& Co Ltd, Logs & Lumber Limited, National Forest Forum, Civil Society Organizations and media houses in a strategic collaboration. This partnership brought together capacity, expertise and networks that delivered on the project objective and reached relevant stakeholders in the forest sector of Ghana.

Capacity building: development of technical material and capacity building of civil society and other non-state actors improved general awareness and knowledge of legal and sustainability requirements that forest managers and operators are required to adhere to along the timber supply chain. This training on established models of

legality and sustainability extracted information from Ghana's Voluntary Partnership Agreement legality verification manual as well as the Ghana Forest Management Certification Standard (<https://ic.fsc.org/download.psu-assessment-report-for-ghana.673.pdf>). Other critical capacity building approaches that were adopted in the implementation of the project included training of civil society organizations to be equipped with relevant tools of engaging forest authorities and concession holders as well as other relevant forest stakeholders in a bid to contribute to effective forest law enforcement.

Field Study and Learning: In order for civil society organizations and other non-state actors to appreciate and internalize legal and sustainability requirements and to be able to contribute law enforcement through adherence to such requirements, the project has adopted a field study approach where participants visited operational sites in the forest and factory of Logs & Lumber Ltd to acquire first-hand information on the processes involved from the forest floor to the ship yard. Staff from the Forest Services Division and the Timber Industry Development Division took participants through all the requirements that must be met in order for timber to be declared legal and sustainable.

Production and Publication of a documentary: As part of effort to raise public interest and active participation in forest law enforcement, a short video documentary was produced and broadcasted 8 times on a national TV to give information on the level of forest illegal activities, the socio-economic and environmental impacts on the general public as well as actions that individuals and businesses can take to contribute to forest law compliance in Ghana. In addition, banners and stickers were produced and distributed to the general public to create the needed awareness and generate the demand for legally produced forest products in the long term.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The project was based on solid premises considering the practical challenges of forest law enforcement and compliance in Ghana. It was identified as critical in filling a gap of capacity of civil society and other non-state actors to engage and expose forest law enforcement issues. It has been critical in dovetailing into the FLEGT VPA process as well as other civil society initiatives such as the ClientEarth Legal Working Groups and Proforest training modules on FLEGT verifications.

This project was designed principally with CSOs, CBOs and other non-state actors, such as traditional authorities, local communities and individual social activists as primary beneficiaries. CSOs and CBOs were closely involved in project training and field study tours. The training has enhanced their capacity and confidence in terms of issues to look for along the timber supply chain and also on how to engage forest authorities. It is however acknowledged that the participation of communities or community members, recognized as essential for building grass-root vigilantes against illegal appropriation of timber and other forest resources, was not as conspicuous as the executives had hoped. It was suggested by local stakeholders during project field monitoring and evaluation visit to replicate the project for local communities using selected forest reserves as pilot.

It is desired that CSOs and industry work consultatively and collaboratively to improve governance and advance the course of sustainable forest management. This is so because the lack of enforcement and non-compliance with forest laws is detrimental to the long-term sustainability of the resource. The degradation of the forest resources has a negative impact on sustainability of industry as well as on revenue sources of the government. Such a phenomenon also discounts the value of the forest resources for posterity and represents avenue for potential rent-seeking behavior by actors. This project valued the importance of industry participation in the multi-stakeholder platform. As primary beneficiary, industry players were involved in project activities through participation in the National Forest Forum. Industry involvement in the forum has improved corporation and relationship with CSOs and CBOs. Traditional Authorities have participated in the forum annually and such participation has strengthened their voices. The resulting communiqué from participants of the forum was presented to the Minister of Lands and Natural Resources for study and implementation.

The project has been associated with the National Forest Forum, a platform established to advocate good governance issues in the forest sector and it has adopted an approach of supporting the participation of industry, for the first time, in the forum. Being an on-going annual conference of relevant stakeholders, the participation of industry and other stakeholders has the impact of enhancing transparency and build dialogue in the sector, which dialogue the Forestry Commission is willing to fund beyond the project period.

Improvement of forest law enforcement at the national level to promote forest governance in Guatemala

Project number:	TFL-PD 024/10 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Guatemala	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 804.419
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 563.339
	Government of Guatemala:	US\$ 200.880
	IUCN:	US\$ 40.200
Submitted by:	Government of Guatemala	
Implementing agency:	National Institute of Forests (INAB)	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 3 rd Cycle (2010)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project will improve the effective implementation of sustainable forest management plans in Guatemala, through strengthening the capacity of forest institutions to enforce the forest management legislation and relevant regulations, as well as through the provision of better services and instruments for the promotion of sustainable forest management. It will strengthen the capacity of INAB to control forest law enforcement through improvement of observation systems and inter-institutional coordination at the national, regional and local levels. The project will increase the involvement of civil society, institutions and local governments in the implementation of activities aimed at strengthening actions to reduce illegal activities and ensure compliance with current forest laws and regulations, among other activities focused on improving forest governance.

Progress:

Project activities have commenced in February 2012, since then progress has been made as follows:

Output 1: “The National Forest Service has been strengthened in the promotion and monitoring of sustainable forest management system for law compliance and up-dating the legal framework”

- 20 workshops were carried out under activities 1.1, 1.2 to review and updated the forest-related regulations and processes.
- As a result of the implementation of activities mentioned above, plus a comprehensive review of all pieces of legislation related to harvesting and transportation of timber and timber products, an ‘updated forestry law’ was promulgated under decree No. 101-96. The updated forestry law it is currently being distributed among relevant stakeholders. Translation of the forest law into 3 Mayan languages is underway. The forestry law can also be downloaded at http://www.inab.gob.gt/Documentos/Legislacion/ley_forestal.PDF
- On 28 February 2014, entered into force the ‘regulation for control of forest enterprises’. The regulation has established an electronic registry for forest enterprises through an online system called ‘Electronic Forest Enterprises Information System’ (*Sistema Electrónico de Información de Empresas forestales – SEINEF*) <http://seinef.inab.gob.gt/> . Through this system, all forest enterprises in Guatemala can now submit their reports of timber stocks on-line to the forest authority and expedite all related approvals. As January 2015 a total of 1,814 forest enterprises have been registered. The system is available at <http://seinef.inab.gob.gt/>
- On 28 April 2014, entered into force the ‘regulation for the transport of forest products and their legal sourcing’.
- A total of 63 workshops in nine regions of Guatemala were carried out for training of forest regents and INAB’s personnel on forest management, covering topics such as land-use, criteria and indicators, geographical information systems and administrative procedures under the current legislation.

Output 2: “Community and institutional participation mechanisms generated to promote forest governance”

- Activity 2.1 is being carried out since year 1 (instead of year 2 as foreseeing the project document)
- The project has participated in discussion forums against illegal logging in three regions of the country.

- As part of inter-institutional coordination activities, road inspection of timber consignments and monitoring visits to forest enterprises continued in 2014 in nine regions of Guatemala. As a result, illegal timber has been confiscated.
- A comprehensive review of all pieces of legislation related to harvesting and transportation of timber and timber products has also been carried out and finalized.

Output 3: "Information and experiences on sustainable forest management are available to society"

- The extension materials on SFM by forest communities are under preparation.
- A total of 6 workshops on SFM by forest communities have been carried out.
- A total of 7 workshops on forest law enforcement by local communities have been also carried out.

Output 4: "Improved availability of information on forest practices and their impact"

- INAB has developed an online database for the geographical information system for forest activities. As of December 2014, the database was in the process of being released.
- The following extension materials have been design and are now available in hard and soft copy at www.inab.gob.gt:
 - The regulation for the transport of forest products and their legal sourcing,
 - The regulation for control of forest enterprises
 - Manual on community forest management
 - Bulletin on forest management and training on forest-related administrative procedures, and forest governance
 - Printed posters and digital banners on forest environmental services, combat against illegal logging, and forest governance
 - Posters and bulletins on the use of SEINEF and on the electronic issue of a company bill of transport for timber and timber products
 - Spots for radio on forest governance and SFM
 - A video on the positive impacts of SMF was produced
 - Areas that showcase good practices on SFM have also been selected for dissemination and demonstration. These areas are for natural forest, forest commercial plantations, and agroforestry systems.

The systems and tools foreseen in the project will be incorporated into SIFGUA (National Forest Information System of Guatemala available at www.sifgua.org.gt). SIFGUA is the direct output of a former ITTO financed project PD340/05 Rev.2 (M), expansion of the current SIFGUA is on-going under another ITTO project, TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (M), thus linking the two projects.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Several institutions within the Government of Guatemala including the Judicial Authority, the Vice-Presidency of the Republic, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Defense, the National Forest Institute, and the National Association of Municipalities, have signed an inter-institutional agreement to enforce forest law enforcement and combat illegal logging. Key achievements as of today include:

- An '*updated forestry law*' was promulgated under decree No. 101-96.
- On February 2014, entered into force the 'regulation for control of forest enterprises'. The regulation has established an electronic registry for forest enterprises called '*Electronic Forest Enterprises Information System (SEINEF)*' <http://seinef.inab.gob.gt/>
- 'Regulation for the transport of forest products and their legal sourcing'.
- As part of inter-institutional coordination activities towards forest law enforcement, such as road inspection of timber consignments and monitoring visits to forest enterprises have been implemented in nine regions of Guatemala. As a result, illegal timber has been confiscated.

The project is being linked with activities of other ITTO project TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (I) "Strengthening of the Forest Information System of Guatemala to improve market and trade transparency and decision-making in the forest sector", in particular by incorporating on-line forest management tools, such as administrative procedures, approvals of forest management plans, bills for transportation of timber, etc. The outputs achieved by the project as of today and the existing inter-institutional coordination are ensuring project sustainability, as these facilitate forest law enforcement not only from the point of view of the authorities, but also from the point of view of forest owners and enterprises involved in harvesting, transportation and processing of timber. Furthermore the

counterpart contribution to the project has increased in order to ensure a proper capacity of the forest authority in regards to forest law enforcement and governance.

Development of a program to strengthen the traceability of legally sourced forest products in Guatemala

Project number:	TFL-PPD 040/13 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Guatemala	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 94,350
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 74,586
	INAB	US\$ 19,764
Submitted by:	Government of Guatemala	
Implementing agency:	National Institute of Forests - INAB	
Duration:	11 months	
Financed at:	5 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

It is estimated that more than 95% of forest product flows in Guatemala, or approximately 28.6 million m³ out of the 30.7 million m³ harvested in 2006, are extracted out of the control of the government (URL, IARNA, 2009. *Integrated Forest Accounting*). The lack of information on the domestic market for forest products is widespread and leads to a lack of transparency. The domestic market for forest products is not very developed and the general public has a limited knowledge of timber uses, which is reflected in low product quality and a lack of coordination in the secondary processing industry (FAO, 2003. *Forest Sector Trends to 2020*). This pre-project is expected to achieve the following objectives:

- Improve the traceability and legality of forest products from Guatemalan forests;
- Analyze the traceability and legality conditions of forest products in Guatemala and develop a project proposal to establish effective monitoring and control mechanisms.

Progress:

Activities commenced in November 2014 following signature of the project agreement. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. At the end of 2014, the project consultant selection process has been completed and work on activities under Output 1 had commenced. The project team has been constituted and a stakeholder consultation meeting had taken place under the auspices of CONESFORGUA (the agency implementing the project) to ensure different actors know their roles in the project. A cooperation agreement has been signed between INAB (the government forestry agency) and CONESFORGUA. The consultant has completed the study of the local forest products marked in consultation with INAB, major industry representatives and other stakeholders. The final report of the study has been prepared and the project completion report is in preparation.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The consultant has submitted the final report of the study on the traceability of forest products (market chain, socio-economic impact, route and product flow in three priority regions). The product obtained provides of compilation of secondary information. The activity was realized based on the Electronic Information System on Forest Enterprises (SEINEF) during the period February 2014 to January 2015. The main products include 1) Identification of the ten forest products with the largest circulation and transaction volumes in the three areas; 2) determination of the variables to be defined for each of the main products: 1) Volume (equivalent to flow), 2) type, 3) actors (type of enterprise), 4) origin (of the primary material entering the enterprise, 5) destination (of products) and 6) routes (possible supply routes).

Improving forest product monitoring and efficiency through the development of a program to enhance the performance of the primary forest processing industry

Project number:	TFL-PPD 045/13 Rev. 2 (M)	
Project country:	Guatemala	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 87,030
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 66,942
	INAB	US\$ 20,088
Submitted by:	Government of Guatemala	
Implementing agency:	National Institute of Forests - INAB	
Duration:	8 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

In Guatemala, it is widely recognized that illegal activities in the forest sector lead to significant loss not only for the sector but also for Guatemalan society as a whole. Uncontrolled harvesting of firewood and timber is one of the main causes of the reduction in forest resource volumes. In order to improve forest industry efficiency, skilled personnel is also needed to develop efficient production lines for existing and innovative products, to conduct studies on yield, timelines and flows, to optimize processing techniques based on optimal wood cutting and feed speeds, and to develop work programs. The pre-project is expected to achieve the following objectives:

- Contribute to improving forest product monitoring and efficiency and enhancing sustainable forest management in Guatemala.
- Provide a standardized methodology to establish primary sawmilling yield levels in the processing of major forest species in Guatemala so as to develop a project proposal aimed at improving primary sawmilling monitoring and control and enhancing processing efficiency and legal marketing of timber.

Progress:

The pre-project has been approved under the 6th TFLET Cycle (2013). The project agreement has been signed and the inception report has been received by the Secretariat in September 2014. The consultant firm to conduct the study and develop the technical manual has been identified. Information from the tracking systems used by INAB has been utilized to determine relevant legal and technical parameter to be considered for the estimation of efficiency in the forest industries. The methodology has been validated with the forest industries in the four selected regions of Guatemala and with governmental representatives in each region in charge of the legal aspects of marketing of forest products. In this way a series of observations was obtained regarding the implementation of the methodology to be considered for developing the manual and the analysis of information for the study. Visits have been made to selected forest industries together with staff of the National Institute of Forests in each region to verify the correct application of the methodology designed.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

A database with information obtained has been created and is currently analyzed. Due to the large amount of data obtained, the original project timeline has been revised and an extension of approximately 6 months is requested.

Strengthening the Capacity of Local Institutions to Sustainably Manage Community Forestry in Sanggau for Improving Livelihood

Project number:	TFL-PD 032/13 Rev. 2 (M)	
Project country:	Indonesia	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 511,730
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 456,680
	Government of Indonesia	US\$ 55,050
Submitted by:	Government of Indonesia	
Implementing agency:	Center for Climate Change and Policy Research, Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA)	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Institutional strengthening of Community Forestry is a program dedicated to empower communities who are living in the surroundings of forest areas. The scheme is aimed at strengthening community institutions. In the Sanggau district, West Kalimantan, three units of Community Forestry attained permits (IUPHKm) from the District Leader allowing communities to utilize state forest areas under the production forest function and covering 3,790 hectares, under the condition of applying sustainable forest management principles. The program progress is however slow and only 5% of the total target area have been met, which delays the HKm development program in Indonesia. The project is expected to facilitate the empowerment of local communities in the context of sustainable community forestry management. Main project beneficiaries will be forest communities and other forest dependent people through improved capacity of community organizations to manage community forests in Sanggau, which is expected to accelerate the development of HKm program implementation in Indonesia. The project will contribute to reduced rural poverty, better access to forest resources, increased employment and income for forest communities, less social conflict and improved social capital among forest communities.

Progress:

The First PSC Meeting was held on 19 January 2015. Under Activity 3.1. the regulations guiding the implementation of the program of community forestry, which are often poorly understood by local governments, were disseminated at the Head Office of District Government Sanggau (Kantor Bupati). A meeting on the important role of community forestry for the development of the district was organized on the 23 February 2015 chaired by the Head of the District to brief 55 participants including government staff, local NGOs, village leaders and the community forestry group of IUPHKm. Under activity 3.2.2 the first workshop to strengthen the capacity of local governments in facilitating the implementation of HKm at Sanggau was conducted on 30 March 2015. The workshop was attended by 25 participants including representatives from the neighboring Sekadau district. All participants had responsibility for community development, including representatives from the Department of Industry and Trade, village governance, agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector as well as the handicraft promotion office. Representatives from forest farmer groups were invited to facilitate discussions with the local government. Under activity 3.3.1 information was collected on existing regulation schemes for Community Forestry in Indonesia. Each has its own regulations issued by the Ministry of Forestry. Other schemes related to community development are promoted by other ministries, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Social Affairs or the Ministry of Women Affairs. Field information was collected through discussions with HKm right holders and other key informants. Under 1.3.2 four training activities were conducted for community groups.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The meetings conducted have stimulated communication between central-provincial and the district level governments as well as between the government and the right-holder groups of IUPHKm. More meetings are expected to be organized to deepen the understanding on the concept of HKm and related regulations. A report on the presentations and discussions is in preparation.

Strengthening the governance of community forest through improved capacity to adequately perform timber administration in Java and Nusa Tenggara region in Indonesia

Project number:	TFL-PD 033/13 Rev. 2 (M)	
Project country:	Indonesia	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 545,230
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 495,880
	Government of Indonesia	US\$ 49,350
Submitted by:	Government of Indonesia	
Implementing agency:	Directorate of Forest Revenues and Forest Product Distribution, Ministry of Forestry	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The role of timber produced from community forests is increasingly important due mainly to the dwindling supply of wood from natural forests. The Ministry of Forestry is strengthening forest governance and reducing leakage of state tax revenues through the issuance of the Ministerial Decree number No 30/Menhut-II/2012 (June 2012) outlining a timber administration system from community forestry to primary industry. It regulates the usage of documents of origin (Surat Keterangan Asal Usul, SKAU) as a tracking system to ensure timber legality. The spirit of these regulations is to simplify the administrative requirements for wood originating from community forests by making village heads eligible to issue transport documents, which also legalize the harvested timber. The project will improve the administration of timber produced from community forest in the Java and Nusa Tenggara regions. The expected outputs of the project are: 1) Ministerial Regulation (Permenhut) No. 30/Menhut-II/2012 is properly implemented; 2) Support of beneficiaries (land owners/farmers, traders and users of timber produced, local government) by timber administration increased. The effective implementation of the new regulation will help to sustain the forest while at the same time increase collection of forest revenues. The long-term goal of the project intervention is to improve local economies of forest dependent communities in Java and Nusa Tenggara and to reduce illegal logging and illegal timber in Indonesia.

Progress:

Under Activity 1.2 the Ministerial Regulation no. P 30/Menhut-II/2012 was reviewed in form of FGD (Focus Group Discussion), involving 134 participants from 19 districts. Activities 1.1, 1.2 and activities 1.3 were implemented behind the schedule. Activities 1.3 has been carried out partially and activity 2.3 will be carried out in year two due to revisions and changes in Ministry Regulation number P. 30/Menhut-II/2012, which will impact the activities to be undertaken. The regulation concerning the use of certificates of origin (SKAU) for transportation of timber forest products originating from forest right/privately owned were amended to regulation P. 21/Menhut-2015. The amendments and changes require additional dissemination at the village level and adjustments to the materials produced. Target audiences for the capacity building may have to be adjusted.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Under Activity 1.1 the project has produced practical manuals of Ministerial Regulation No. P. 30/Menhut-II/2012 concerning wood administration of timber harvested from community forestry land in form of posters, a video, a film and a practical guideline for the dissemination. Dissemination was carried out three times in two provinces (West and Central Java) involving 113 participants from 35 districts. Under Activity 1.3 a first training on skills to implement Ministerial Regulation No. P. 30/Menhut-II/2012 was provided to 30 village heads from 6 districts. The training objective was to improve local capacity in the implementation of timber administration system from private land, including inter alia policy and regulations on timber measurement, identification of timber species timber grading and timber administration.

Capacity-building programme to foster law enforcement and local governance over timber use and marketing activities in the Segou region, Mali

Project number:	TFL-SPD 038/13 Rev.3 (M)	
Project country:	Mali	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 178,893
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 149,707
	Government of Mali	US\$ 29,186
Submitted by:	Government of Mali	
Implementing agency:	Association for development and self-governance in Mali, ADAM	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

In the Segou region logging is conducted in the forestlands and the timber industry is based on two major supply basins, i.e. Niono and San. Trends in rural and urban wood consumption and specifically wood energy, on the one hand and the findings made at field level on the rapid degradation of forest ecosystems on the other hand, have provided the basis for identifying intervention strategies and priority actions tailored to each area. Strict adherence to this strategy is to ensure the sustainability of the forest resource base supplying the main large cities of the region and the timber and fuel wood trade to the capital Bamako and its area. For this purpose, rural markets have been designed and implemented as a tool to achieve the sustainable management of forest resources. The use and marketing of timber and fuel wood are regulated by the national legislation, but the sector suffers from inadequate law enforcement, due among other things to the low enforcement capacity of the forestry administration and the uncontrolled nature of these timber and fuel wood industries. Illegal logging on community land poses a major challenge for the sustainable management of forest resources, the establishment and maintenance of efficient markets and sustainable forestry practices in the region. The project is part of the strategic priorities of the National Forest Policy of Mali; and is aimed at strengthening the capacity of local communities to enforce forestry legislation and local governance in the area of logging operations and timber and wood marketing, through outreach and education work targeting the stakeholders of the timber industry.

Progress:

The Agreement regulating the project implementation was signed on 14 April 2014. The project inception report and the Yearly Plan of Operation were approved on 29 April 2014. The project implementation began with the disbursement of the first instalment on 8 May 2014. The second (and last instalment) was transferred on the 27 January 2015. The PTC meeting was held in June 2015 and the project was achieved on the 20th of July 2015 with the submission of the financial audit and the final report.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The two outputs of the projects ([i] *stakeholders in the wood industry are informed, educated and made aware of regulations and legislation covering the use, transportation and marketing of wood*, and [ii] *stakeholders of the wood industry have had their organizational and institutional capacity enhanced around the wood industry in terms of wood harvesting, use and trading*) based on 5 activities were completely achieved in July 2015. Within the framework of the first output, the main stakeholders of the timber industry and trade were associated along with the project implementation allowing them to share their specific concerns and expectations in the implementation of the project. 130 participants from local communities (mainly farmers, local harvesters, users of fuel wood, traders and retailers of wood, and village operators), resource users organizations, local authorities and timber industry key players took part to training workshops where they were directly informed on the timber regulations in the Segou region. Moreover, in order to inform the local population about the timber regulations, radio and television messages (in French and Bambara language) on timber laws were broadcasted during 474 hours over a period of 6 months allowing an estimated 2 million people to be directly informed on the timber

regulations in the Segou region. The laws regulating timber harvesting and trading were translated and printed in French and Bambara language on prepared manuals. About 100 copies of these manuals were sent to the main timber industry stakeholders. In the framework of the second output, a database was established in order to gather information on local forest resources and on local main timber harvesters and traders. Three staffs of the regional forest administration have been trained to run and develop this database. Overall, the aims of the projects were the reduction of illegal harvesting, a stronger compliance of the timber trader and harvesters to the timber regulations in the Segou region and a reinforced cooperation between the local communities and local governance.

Strengthening of ANAM's management capacity to reduce illegal logging and trade in the eastern region of Panama (Bayano and Darien) through monitoring and control mechanisms

Project number:	TFL-PD 044/13 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Panama	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 730,309
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 412,556
	WWF Panama	US\$ 132,403
	ANAM	US\$ 185,350
Submitted by:	Government of Panama	
Implementing agency:	WWF Panama	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Pending Agreement	

Summary:

The aim of this project is to follow up on one of the outputs of the 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 conducted an analysis and described the institutional, administrative and socio-economic factors leading to illegal logging in the Eastern Region of Panama (Bayano and Darien) and produced a framework document on guidelines and strategies which require immediate institutional action to arrest incremental forest degradation caused by illegal logging practices and other unsustainable activities. Therefore, the main purpose of this project is to contribute to the prevention and control of illegal logging and trade in the Eastern Region of Panama (Bayano and Darien) by strengthening ANAM's capacity to ensure efficient and effective forest sector management and increased community awareness on forest degradation as a result of illegal logging and related illegal trade in forest products. The project is also complementary to ITTO project 'Tropical Forest Governance in the Region of Darien, Panama' PD 602/11 Rev.3 (F), which was approved at the 49th ITTC and will commence in 2014.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 6th TFLET Cycle (2013). The agreement regulating the implementation of the project is pending.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Marketing of timber from legal and sustainable sources by indigenous communities in Ucayali, Peru for the fair trade market

Project number:	TFL-SPD 029/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Peru	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 230,291
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 137,941
	AIDER:	US\$ 92,350
Submitted by:	Government of Peru	
Implementing agency:	AIDER	
Duration:	15 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

The local native communities (NCs) currently have FSC certification for the management of their forests, which produce timber at a small scale and in less than optimal conditions to meet market requirements. The FSC market demands the same quantity and quality standards as ordinary markets, a requirement the communities cannot meet as they operate with low production capacity and low environmental impact equipment and machinery. In this context, it is necessary to assist the native communities to penetrate specific markets that pay a fair price for the timber they produce so as to improve their income levels. The fair trade market does not demand high production volumes and pays a higher price for timber of demonstrated legal and sustainable origin. This project, to be implemented in the Department of Ucayali, located in the Peruvian Amazon Region, is aimed at enabling seven Shipibo Conibo indigenous communities to improve their marketing of timber from legal and sustainable sources with a view to penetrating the fair trade market. The forest enterprise management capacity of community members will be improved and an innovative joint production and marketing strategy will be implemented on the basis of strategic partnerships with private companies. Improved CoC procedures will be established and adjusted to fair trade production standards. By the end of the project, there will be a validated community forest enterprise model that will contribute to improved forest governance in the Department of Ucayali. It should be stressed that the innovative approach of this project lies in the enterprise-community partnership to be developed as this type of alliance has so far been successful in the timber sector of Peru. In addition, this would represent the first Fair Trade Market experience in the country's forest sector.

Progress:

The project aims to contribute to sustainable production and legal timber trade in the Peruvian Amazon including strengthening forest governance. IT has been providing technical assistance to the beneficiary communities in the use of chain of custody, preparation and presentation of management plans before the Forestry and Wildlife Directorate, and timber production, as a first step to supply certified timber company CITEINDIGENA SRL and subsequent processing and marketing. The chain of custody system has been developed based on standards for certified forests. The project has developed forest management plans for the community controlled forests which are pending before the forest authority. The re-design of administrative procedures of the company experienced some delays because the hiring of a new manager took two months later than planned. Updating the website of the company has been done with the inclusion of information from community members.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The following achievements have been recorded during project implementation:

- Manual of chain of custody procedures updated and disseminated.
- 21 operators from 7 communities and the city of Pucallpa trained on proper sawing and timber drying techniques
- Manual of administrative and accounting procedures developed and implemented
- 70 community members trained in applying business management tools
- Business plan developed

- Participation in world forest Fairtrade event
- The company CITEINDIGENA SRL, representing 7 communities operating as Communal Producers Association-Certified Wood (PROMACER) has established a strategic alliance to access the Fairtrade market for certified wood products
- Production and marketing of 2100 cubic meters of wood in compliance with FSC and Fairtrade
- Income of indigenous families involved was increase by up to 100%
- Operations plan of CITEINDIGENA SRL has been adapted to Fairtrade standards
- CITEINDIGENA SRL has applied for the Fairtrade certification

The sustainability of project outputs is ensured by the agreement between the communities and CITEINDIGENA SRL, which is mutually beneficial. The contribution of AIDER (the executing agency of the project) is primarily directed to providing support and capacity building to community members to be able to undertake the required forest management plans and to engage with the Fairtrade process, thereby ensuring that they will continue with their engagement with Fairtrade markets for certified forest products after project completion.

Six native communities maintain Voluntary Forest Certification and are implementing standard processes of fair trade. In addition, the native community of New Samaria has strengthened its expertise in production techniques, including drying, classification, fair trade and voluntary certification. Seven native communities are now managing their forests based on general forest management plans. The project has good potential for duplication and replication in Amazonia due to the large number of native communities with forest areas which can develop schemes for community forestry, voluntary forest certification and fair trade.

Improved governance and implementation of transparent negotiation mechanisms for indigenous community forestry in Atalaya (Ucayali)

Project number:	TFL-SPD 030/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Peru	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 191,263
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 131,236
	Government of Peru:	US\$ 10,800
	Atalaya Local Government	US\$ 9,000
	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	US\$ 40,227
Submitted by:	Government of Peru	
Implementing agency:	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	TFLET 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

The province of Atalaya, in the Department of Ucayali (Peru) covers 3,892,443 ha of tropical forests, including more than a million hectares of forests rich in high commercial value species, which are home to more than 50 indigenous communities. Illegal timber logging and trade represents one of the most serious threats to the indigenous communities' forests and to their socio-economic development expectations, maintaining and exacerbating their situation of poverty and extreme poverty (Veeduría 2011)¹. This situation is perpetuated because the community leaders that negotiate timber logging contracts do not have the tools required to assess the value of the forest resources harvested from their lands and do not have sufficient knowledge about the legislation to establish fair and transparent contracts with third parties. Furthermore, the indigenous organizations of Atalaya do not have the necessary capacity to assist their member communities and do not have a communications system in place to help them be informed. Thus, the project will contribute to improve community forest governance by promoting the implementation of the Community Forest Watch mechanism in the province of Atalaya so as to provide technical assistance to indigenous communities and enable them to negotiate with third parties in a transparent, equitable and legal manner for the harvesting of their forest resources. This will in turn help to curb illegal logging in the territories of the communities. In addition, an integrated communications/outreach program will be implemented in support of forest governance in the Atalaya area. The primary beneficiaries of this project will be 20 indigenous communities and the indigenous organization CORPIAA.

Progress:

Implementation of this project commenced in November 2013 and all activities have been completed. The project has organized Community Forestry Oversight Atalaya within CORPIAA and developed its rules. CORPIAA has developed the VFC Act which involved all CORPIAA partners who agreed to form the VFC, all of whom signed the act. The VFC Act has been enrolled/registered in the Public Records Act. The definition of the structure of the VFC has been prepared and approved at a meeting of CORPIAA. The sustainability of project outputs is ensured by the inclusion of the VFC Act in Peru's Public Records, ensuring government recognition of community control over affected forest areas. The strong involvement and engagement of local communities through CORPIAA will continue beyond project completion, as will the inputs and assistance of the implementing agency (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation).

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The following achievements have been recorded during project implementation to date:

- Organization of Community Forestry Oversight Atalaya within CORPIAA and development of its rules
- CORPIAA has developed the VFC Act; this involved all CORPIAA partners who agreed to form the VFC, all of whom signed the act
- Enrollment/registration of the VFC Act in the Public Records Act

- Definition of the structure of the VFC prepared and approved at a meeting of CORPIAA
- 15 communications products developed (videos, brochures, etc) on governance of forest resources and widely disseminated
- 80 indigenous leaders (including 40 women) trained in forest valuation and contract negotiation

A number of technical reports and manuals are available from the ITTO project search tool at http://www.ito.int/project_search/.

The sustainability of project outputs is ensured by the inclusion of the VFC Act in Peru's Public Records, ensuring government recognition of community control over affected forest areas. The strong involvement and engagement of local communities through CORPIAA will continue beyond project completion, as will the inputs and assistance of the implementing agency (HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation)

Enhancing Forest Law Enforcement in Papua New Guinea

Project number:	PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M,I)	
Project country:	Papua New Guinea	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 473,040
	ITTO Contributions:	US\$ 473,040
Submitted by:	PNG	
Implementing agency:	ITTO	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TFLET pre-cursor	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

This project was approved and financed by the Council at its Forty-third Session in November 2007. The development objective of this project is to further improve PNG's sustainable forest management regime by enhancing forest law enforcement and governance in the forestry sector. The specific objective is to enhance a forest law enforcement regime including products tracking and chain of custody verification systems, complemented by enhanced training and monitoring, to further support sustainable forest management in PNG's forestry sector.

Progress:

Following the signature of the project agreement on 19.05.2008 and the disbursement of the first installment of funds, the project experienced some delay due to the need to replace some project staff and consultants. After necessary adjustments/revisions to the work plan and YPO, the implantation of on the ground activities commenced on 1 August 2010.

The implementation of this project has experienced a substantial delay due to the replacement of project personnel and the preparation for the Project Completion Report and the Technical Reports. The Implementing Agency has finalized and re-submitted the Project Completion Report and the Technical Reports in July 2014 but is still working on the Final Financial Audit Report.

According to the Completion Report outputs were achieved as follows:

- A pilot log and timber tracking and chain of custody verification system was designed and built to meet the needs of the PNGFA. Field testing was carried out to trial the system and test implementation of the system;
- A database to capture and store log and timber products flow information developed and tested for implementation. An integrated system was prepared which included a database to store timber product information. The database was developed and tested as a component of the system developed;
- A legality standard based on FLEGT/ITTO Best Practices guidelines and principles, and industry code of conduct has been developed for implementation in PNG in collaboration with key stakeholders. This output will be fully realized when the final versions have been approved by the National Forest Board towards the end of 2013;
- A training module for enhancing the skills and expertise of key stakeholders particularly the PNGFA and forestry industry participants in the monitoring of forestry activities to deter and detect illegal practices has been developed and implemented. This output will be fully realized when the final versions have been approved by the National Forest Board towards the end of 2013.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The Project has given Papua New Guinea (PNG) the opportunity to further enhance its forest law enforcement. The project has provided the PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA) with a sound basis for implementing a Legality Assurance System that responds to timber procurement policies and stakeholder objectives.

Identification and implementation of the project was adequate and timely for the PNG Forest Industry sector to realign and enhance its operating mechanisms to meet market demands. A timber tracking and chain of custody system including a timber products database has been developed and pilot-tested in PNG proving that this can be achieved.

The system developed shows the manner in which a system can be implemented in PNG when a suitable source of implementation funding has been developed and has to run in parallel to the existing system to be successful.

A legality standard based on FLEGT guidelines and principles, together with an industry code of conduct “template”, has been prepared for future implementation in PNG. A set of monitoring tools incorporating the existing PNGFA Logging Code of Practice as reference points in the monitoring forms to enable independent verification. This has also been developed and pilot-tested for assessing forest industry participant compliance with PNG’s Timber Legality Standard.

Chain of Custody Verification for Timber Processors in Papua New Guinea

Project number:	TFL-SPD 043/13 Rev. 1 (M)	
Project country:	Papua New Guinea	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 163,160
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 147,280
	PNGFIA	US\$ 15,880
Submitted by:	Government of Papua New Guinea	
Implementing agency:	Papua New Guinea Forest Industries Associaton (PNGFIA)	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	6 th TFLET Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Inception Phase	

Summary:

The project will develop and pilot a Chain of Custody (CoC) system based on the international standard managed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), customised for use by PNG timber processors. This customised standard will facilitate access to international markets for PNG timber processors. The project will build on the outputs of ITTO project PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M) ("Enhancing Forest Law Enforcement in PNG"). PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M) has established a generic legality standard for PNG; however this standard does not incorporate a Chain of Custody component. The project will provide a CoC component, such that together the outputs of the two projects will provide PNG timber companies with the tools needed to meet regulatory requirements of key international export markets

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 6th TFLET Cycle (2013). The project agreement has been signed in October 2014 and the project is in the inception phase.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

REDDES

Monitoring deforestation, logging and land use change in the Pan Amazonian Forest, PANAMAZON II

Project number:	RED-PD 029/09 Rev.1 (F)		
Project country:	PanAmazonian		
Budget:	Total:	US\$	6,262,784
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$	1,124,784
	ACTO Contribution:	US\$	1,389,600
	ACTO Member Countries:	US\$	3,748,400
Submitted by:	Government of Brazil		
Implementing agency:	Amazon Cooperation Treaty Agency (ACTO)		
Duration:	48 months		
Financed at:	REDDES 2 nd Cycle (2009)		
Status:	Ongoing		

Summary:

The project will address constraints that are limiting the use of the Indicator of the Forest Cover by implementing national monitoring systems as a key element so as to increase the governance in the Amazon. In order to facilitate countries interaction and integrated action in boundary zones the project will strengthen the dialogue and coordination platforms linked to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). The project is divided in three components:

- Coordination of participatory processes for the development of Forest Cover National Monitoring Systems;
- Implementation of Forest Cover National Monitoring Systems; and
- Strengthening of the existing platforms for regional dialogue and coordination on forest management, with focus on forest cover monitoring with the possibility to include other criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management.

The systems will make use of the technology platform developed by the Government of Brazil and the methodology already adopted in this country will be considered for the implementation of the National Systems. Furthermore, the project will contribute to the improvement of knowledge in the sector, to share new technologies, to prioritize lines of action for the regional cooperation and to share experiences on the enforcement of forest laws.

Progress:

The installation of the Observation Rooms (ORs) in each country has been completed and the Observation Rooms are operational. The preparation and validation of national plans to monitor forest cover is in progress. The capacity building components (training courses) have been completed, while the technical assistance provided to system users is a permanent activity. The monitoring of regional activities and promotion of information exchange is a permanent activity initialized and supported by the project. The production of regional deforestation maps is ongoing with input from the participating countries, depending on availability of images. At the national level countries are evaluating the causes of deforestation and forest degradation. With the approval of the additional resources from the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), for the continuation of the project activities initialized under this project, the operation of the established national observation rooms has become a permanent activity. That funding also provides for adequate regional forums for technical discussions among technical staff of the ORs and regular 'Regional Encounters' are held. The Project Regional Coordination Unit, together with the national coordination agencies is permanently coordinating and supporting regional discussions

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

In May 2013, the Board of the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES), through the Amazon Fund approved an amount of Brazilian Reais R\$ 23 million or approximately US\$ 11.8 million to ACTO to ensure the continuation and expansion of the activities initialized under RED-PD 029/09 Rev.1 (F). Over a five year period, the new ACTO project on 'Monitoring of forest cover in the Amazon Region' will continue the structuring and implementation of the established observation rooms, provide access to forest cover monitoring technology, support the development of national monitoring plans, and foster the improvement, harmonization and standardization of institutional capacities to assess land use changes in the participating countries. Continuing the efforts under RED-PD 029/09 Rev.1 (F) and utilizing the infrastructure established under the ITTO project, it will support regional cooperation to combat illegal logging and exchange of experiences related to public policy instruments to reduce deforestation. The expected project results are a direct contribution to the objectives of the UN-REDD programme through improved control of deforestation and forest degradation, and through the strengthening of monitoring systems and provision of data from all participating countries. The importance of RED-PD 029/09 Rev 1 (F) and its impact on the forest conservation on the Amazon Region has been highlighted by the Governments of Germany and the Netherlands to the extent that the results of its technical cooperation with ACTO in the implementation of the Regional Project to Monitoring Deforestation encouraged the German Technical Cooperation GIZ to conduct, with technical input from INPE, a regional meeting about monitoring deforestation where similar experiences, to ACTO's in the Amazon region, like others in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe were shared and discussed (INPE-PRA/GIZ International Workshop, Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil, 31 Oct – 1 Nov 2013). The importance and relevance of the project and its continuation under BNDES/ACTO has also been highlighted by the meeting of the ACTO Foreign Relations Ministers (e.g. in Ecuador, May 2013).

Developing REDD+ES in the Brazilian Atlantic Rain Forest

Project number:	RED-SPD 058/11 Rev.2 (F)		
Project country:	Brazil		
Budget:	Total:		US\$ 164,610
	ITTO Contribution:		US\$ 142,110
	Instituto BioAtlantica (IBio)		US\$ 3,750
	Fibria, Brazil		US\$ 18,750
Submitted by:	Government of Brazil		
Implementing agency:	Instituto Terra		
Duration:	12 months		
Financed at:	REDDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)		
Status:	Pending agreement		

Summary:

Due to its exceptional biological diversity, the Brazilian Atlantic Rain Forest is among the five top priority conservation areas in the world. The biome hosts 80% of the Brazilian GNP and is home to more than 110 million people (or 60% of the Brazilian population), who depend on key environmental services produced by forests, such as fresh water, clean air, and climate stability. Due to deforestation activities, only 7% of the Atlantic Forest original vegetation is left. To further protect and recover the forest, additional incentives and financial resources, including sales of carbon credits, must be identified and channeled to landowners and local communities. REDD+ is a promising mechanism with the potential to assist the conservation and recovery of forests, however requirements for the development of on-the-ground projects are very technical and complex. This proposal aims to identify the potential of using the REDD+ mechanism to help restore and preserve the Atlantic Forest.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the REDDES 3rd Cycle (2011). The project has been facing difficulties as the key collaborating agency had unexpectedly declined to participate in the project. Instituto Terra has now been identified and agreed as Executing Agency for the project and the project agreement has been prepared and dispatched for signature.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nothing yet to report

Participatory development, conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas in the Bamboutos Mountain chain, West Cameroon

Project number:	RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Cameroon	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 93,713
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 73,613
	Government of Cameroon	US\$ 20,100
Submitted by:	Government of Cameroon	
Implementing agency:	MINFOF	
Duration:	8 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

The degradation of the mountain ecosystem in the Bamboutos Range, the ‘water tower’ of the West Cameroon region, an area with high cultural tourism potentials which acts as a climate-control system, has reached a critical threshold during past twenty years. The cause of this degradation process has been ascribed to a combination of three main factors, i.e. climate variability, the fragility of this particular ecosystem and population pressure. The pre-project aims to provide for the development of a strategic framework for sustainable management of the regional forests on the basis of a consensus that takes into account the interests of all stakeholders in generating an integrated management plan that includes a priority action plan. Such action plan will contribute to improving the welfare of communities, mitigate the degradation of the ecosystem and implement the restoration process. The implementation of this pre-project will also remove the constraints hindering the process of classification as Integral Reserve, currently under way in the region

Progress:

The Agreement regulating the implementation of the pre-project was signed on 17 April 2012. An acceptable Inception Report and related Detailed Work Plan, as well as the selection of experts and subcontractors required at the beginning of the pre-project implementation, were submitted and approved by the ITTO Secretariat. The pre-project implementation started with the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO TP funds on 23 January 2014. As an acceptable pre-project completion report was received in July 2015, the duration of the pre-project implementation had lasted 19 months instead of 8 initially designed by the Executing Agency. The delay in completing the pre-project activities was mainly due to the internal bureaucratic process within the ministry of forestry of Cameroon, for the designation of members of the pre-project implementing team. In accordance with the elements of the pre-project document, technical reports prepared by consultants and completion report, all pre-project activities were carried out and contributed to the achievement of the two following planned outputs:

Output 1: Socio-economic and environmental surveys had been implemented and data made available for:

- A national consultant had prepared an environmental study report of the target area of the future project, containing the relevant information and data compiled during the pre-project implementation, with the involvement of main stakeholders (sedentary farmers, nomadic/transhumant cattle stock breeders, traditional Chiefs, local Authorities, environmental NGOs representatives, etc.): and
- A socioeconomic study in the area of the Bamboutos Mountain Range had been conducted by a national consultant in the target area of the future project to be derived from the implementation of this pre-project. It had been an opportunity for the sensitization campaigns of main stakeholders in order to explain to them the importance of rehabilitating the degraded lands of the Bamboutos Mountain Range through the implementation of a future project to be prepared with the findings and results of this pre-project.

Output 2: A full project proposal had been formulated, validated and submitted to ITTO Secretariat

- The project proposal, dealing with the project on participatory development, conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas in the Bamboutos Mountain Chain, in the Western Province of Cameroon, was developed and validated by main stakeholders. The project proposal title was: "*Participatory Development, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Landscapes in the Bamboutos Highlands, West Cameroon*"; and
- It was submitted to ITTO and assessed by the 50th meeting of Expert Panel for the technical appraisal of project and pre-project proposals regarding the ITTO Regular Project Cycle and rated Category 2.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

- The main pre-project achievement and impact had been dealing with the awareness of key stakeholders on the need to get them be part of the solution, as most of them had been part of the problem regarding the forest land degradation of the Bamboutos Mountain Range.
- Those stakeholders had been sensitized on the importance of the participatory approach for the implementation of the future project as a contribution to combat deforestation and forest degradation in the Bamboutos Mountain Range.

Demonstration on investigation and assessment of typical forest ecotourism resources in Hainan province, China

Project number:	RED-SPD 075/12 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	China	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 199,000
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 145,800
	Government of China:	US\$ 53,200
Submitted by:	Government of China	
Implementing agency:	Chinese Academy of Forestry, Division of Forest Resource Information Techniques	
Duration:	18 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

Forest ecotourism is an important part of the construction of the Hainan International Tourism Island. Forest ecotourism is an important and effective way to enhance environmental services and local livelihoods in the province and investigation and assessment of tropical forest ecotourism resources is the most important step for implementing and promoting ecotourism. Six typical tropical forest ecotourism resources at the forest landscape and/or forest community level will be selected as demonstration objects to assess the potential of developing tropical forest ecotourism. A sound methodology for investigating and assessing tropical forest ecotourism resources in the Hainan Province will be developed through reviewing relevant knowledge and best practices and participatory multi-stakeholders consultation process. A comprehensive assessment report on the six typical forest ecotourism resources will be published and circulated to interested parties in China.

Progress:

The main project activities implemented to achieve the two outputs include the following:

Output 1: Methodology for investigating and assessing tropical forest ecotourism resources based on stakeholders' participation

- Collected and analyzed relevant international and national literature and cases on tropical forest ecotourism developments
- A draft methodology for investigating and assessing tropical forest ecotourism resources in Hainan Province was finalized through several consultative meetings with key stakeholders in the Province.

Output 2: Investigation and assessment report on 6 typical forest ecotourism resources in Hainan Province based on stakeholders' participation

- 6 typical ecosystems of forest ecotourism resources (2 at forest landscape level, 3 at forest community level and 1 at individual forest level) in Diaoluoshan National Forest Park in Hainan Province were chosen.
- An investigation of the 6 typical ecosystems of forest ecotourism resources in Diaoluoshan National Forest Park was carried out to improve the design and implementation of forest ecotourism programmes in Hainan Province.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The project has been successfully implemented to achieve its specific objective and there were no major deviations from them. The project has delivered all expected outputs and produced a reference book entitled "Guide on Collection for Inventory and Assessment of Forest Recreation Resources in USA" in

Chinese in 2015 by China Forestry Publishing House. The project also produced two scientific articles: namely, 1) *Research Progress on Classification, Investigation and Evaluation of Forest Tourism Resource* (in Chinese) in *World Forestry Research* (2014, 27(6): 8~13); and 2) *Valuation and Payments for Forest Ecosystem Service: Concepts, Principles, and Indicators* (in Chinese) in *Journal of China Agriculture University* (2014, 19(5): 263~268). The project team prepared an article entitled "The Sustainability of Payments for Environmental Services (PES) of Natural Production Forests: Lessons Learned from Maohui Community, Hainan, China". The paper was accepted by the 2015 World Forestry Congress, Durban, South Africa and it can be found at the WFC website:

<http://foris.fao.org/wfc2015/api/file/55476332e52d79267e89a5c2/contents/8c0e7665-e133-428a-b2a7-6c446069ee26.pdf>

The project has improved the research capacity of the Executing Agency relating to the development of forest-based ecotourism and enhanced their technical knowledge and skills to conduct tropical forest ecotourism research more effectively. The achievements of the project will contribute to future policy development for eco-tourism in south China based on sound methods for investigating and assessing tropical forest ecotourism resources at forest management unit levels. One of the important lessons learned from the implementation of the project include that support of the local stakeholders, especially local communities in Diaoluoshan National Forest Park and local forestry agency of Hainan Forestry Department was essential to the efficient implementation of a participatory multi-stakeholders consultation process. A combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches was an essential means of implementation of the project activities. To ensure the sustainability of the project after its completion, the Executing Agency has formulated a list of future PES research plans which will be pursued by extending the outcomes and lessons from the project. The Diaoluoshan National Forest Park (project area) has set up a special management unit and extension work framework to maintain and enhance the protection and sustainable management of the demonstration forests in collaboration with local communities in order to increase the long-term sustainability of the project.

Integrating sustainable livelihoods, environmental mortgages, and science-based reforestation for tangible forest conservation change in the Ecuadorian Chocó

Project number:	RED-SPD 055/11 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Ecuador	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 207,744
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 149,922
	Government of Ecuador	US\$ 25,222
	Others	US\$ 32,600
Submitted by:	Government of Ecuador	
Implementing agency:	Pinchot Institute for Conservation	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

In one of Ecuador's two remaining Chocó forest expanses, a new economic incentives program will be pilot tested, aimed at permanently reversing deforestation by facilitating livelihood improvements that are intrinsically linked to environmental stewardship. Toward creating a viable economic alternative for the reserve's 50-some rural communities, the current cacao market system will be revamped. Required funding for achieving this aim will be run through the new "environmental mortgages" microfinance model, in which lines of credit are calculated against the conservation value of a community's surrounding *de facto* environmental assets. The rural poor typically have no access to globally perceived existence values (e.g. carbon offsets, biodiversity) of these assets, which are often their most valuable. Tying the capital in a lending trust to that value creates incentives for sustainability, while providing the financial resources needed to climb out of poverty. The two year initiative will focus on developing and implementing the environmental mortgages framework in three reserve communities. Year one will focus on necessary due diligence (socio-political analyses, asset monitoring/evaluation protocols, microfinance details, market development) and community organization. Year two we will pilot the program.

Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the small project was duly signed on 22 August 2012. The Project Inception Report and the Detailed Work Programme have been received and approved by the ITTO Secretariat and the first disbursement of funds was transferred to the Executing Agency on 24 August 24, 2012, after project staff and consultants were put in place and the Secretariat was notified that the project was ready to commence its activities.

Technical Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the small project, was duly signed on August 22, 2012. Project activities took place without delays in its scheduled 24 months, so the EA delivered the Final Report in November 2014. The final audit and the article were delivered by the EA at the end of August 2015. During the course of the project, the need for operational changes was noted. These changes were presented and justified at the PSC meeting, including working with only two communities instead of three, and the simplification of the exchange system, avoiding the financial component.

Technical Progress:

The work implemented during the reporting period focused on the following main activities:

1. GIS mapping and classification of land uses was achieved through the comprehensive mapping of the territories of all stakeholders in the communities of Mono Bravo and Guayacán;
2. The formalization of terms for the first exchange between conservation and livelihoods

improvements has progressed through the fixing of 200 and 600 hectares forest preserved at the communities of Mono Bravo and Guayacán, respectively;

3. The implementation of the first exchange conservation-improvements to livelihoods, through the contractual formalization with the Mono Bravo community;
4. continued negotiations with potential buyers of cocoa, including visits of two chocolate companies;
5. Resolution of problems with the two pilot communities, originated mainly by previous bad experiences, lack of unity and divergence of interests between the community members; and
6. Raising of additional funds to ensure continued post-pilot project has been undertaken.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Specific results achieved by the project are as follows:

- In participating in the pilot community Mono Bravo, 14 of 34 (41.2%) cacao-farming households were formally affiliated with the cooperative formed as a result of this project ("ASMOBRA," Asociacion de Productores Mono Bravo).
- Direct conservation–livelihood trades (see sections above) have replaced the project's lending component; at project completion, ASMOBRA had engaged in a total of two conservation–livelihood trades. Each of the two trades was multi-faceted, completing more than a single market system overhaul step in exchange for a substantive proportion of community forest holdings:
 - Two hundred hectares of conserved primary forest in exchange for the construction of a drying/fermenting center to enable export-quality cacao, a direct/confirmed linkage to an international buyer, capacity-building in technical and administrative skills required to run the drying/fermenting center, and facilitation of the legal registry process for a cacao producer's cooperative in Ecuador.
 - One hundred hectares of conserved primary forest in exchange for the third-party organic certification required by cacao buyer Original Beans and the implementation of volume-increasing production techniques (comprehensive trimming campaign, planting of shade trees, and use of organic fertilizers, pesticides, and fungicides) to triple current harvests.
- Participating cacao cooperative ASMOBRA has completed two necessary steps in the cacao market overhaul, with a total of four steps initiated (meaning that all identified system improvements for market overhaul have been initiated):
 - Construction of a drying/fermenting center to enable export-quality cacao: completed.
 - Confirmed linkage to an international cacao buyer: completed.
 - Acquisition of third-party organic certification: initiated.
 - Volume-increasing production techniques, training and application: initiated.
- Of the total 495 hectares of primary forest holdings in pilot community Mono Bravo, 300 hectares are now formally designated as environmental assets under participation in the environmental mortgages program, representing 60.6% of the community's total forest holdings.
- As described in above sections, the project's reforestation component was postponed for post-pilot phases of the program; as such, no degraded lands surrounding pilot communities are currently under reforestation as environmental asset "extensions" of the program.
- The project's lending component has been replaced by direct conservation–livelihood trades (see sections above); financing required to pay for specific livelihood improvement services was acquired via budget reprogramming and fundraising efforts during the project's duration. Currently it is being augmented for post-pilot phases via both further fundraising and a potential voluntary carbon offsets agreement. Ecuador's SocioBosque program will not be employed due to the lengthy commitment required for participation (20 year minimum contract durations).

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation through Collaborative Management with Local Communities

Project number:	RED-PD 026/09 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 760,408
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 658,716
	Government of Ghana	US\$ 101,692
Submitted by:	Government of Ghana	
Implementing agency:	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)	
Duration:	48 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 2 nd Cycle (2009)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project aims to contribute to sustainable management and conservation of Ankasa Conservation area to improve the provision of environmental services and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Ankasa Conservation area incorporates the Nini-Suhien National Park and the Ankasa Resource Reserve and is considered as the most biologically diverse forest ecosystem in Ghana. The project specifically intends to develop and implement participatory, good governance and management system for the Ankasa conservation area, determine the financial value of the environmental services as well as methods for measurement, assessment reporting and verification (MARV) for forest carbon. The project will be participatory and thus will build on a high level community involvement and capacity building.

Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 05 April 2010. An Inception Report and related first Yearly Plan of Operation were submitted on 15 April 2010 and approved. The Project implementation began with the disbursement of the first installment of TP funds on 20 April 2010. The project extension was granted until April 2015 and a second one until September 2015 in order to allow the completion of all activities. In accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project on-line monitoring system, progress in project implementation (by output) can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: Participatory management system developed and implemented

1.1 Identification of management system of areas surrounding conservation area

The compilation of the findings and results derived from the reconnaissance surveys, undertaken in the Ankasa Conservation Area (ACA), in order to identify different management systems being implemented, has been undertaken while taking into account relevant remarks made by experts consulted for review. These reconnaissance surveys covered the following nine (9) local communities: Amokwaw, Fia, Nungua-Cocoatown, Tweakor Navrongo, Aiyinasi-Ayawora, Ohiamadwen-Fiasoro, Asomasi, Naptoma and New Adiembra, surrounding the project area (Ankasa Conservation Area).

1.2 Identification of relevant local stakeholders

Local consultation committees had become operational, after being either put in place or reactivated, in these nine abovementioned local communities, surrounding the Ankasa Conservation Area.

1.3 Strategic analysis of the drivers of forest degradation and deforestation in the Conservation area

The compilation of the findings, information and data derived from the questionnaire on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, which was used for the reconnaissance surveys and consultation meetings, had been undertaken while taking into account relevant remarks made by experts selected for the review of the draft report.

1.4 Participatory development of management system

The Executing Agency had continued its collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Ghana Forestry Commission in order to provide appropriate technical support to the 9 local communities involved in the

project implementation. For these nine local communities, additional surveys had been undertaken for stakeholders' consultation meetings in relation to the activities contributing to address their needs, interests and problems in relation to the deforestation and forest degradation problems: income generating activities for livelihood, non-timber forest products harvesting and processing, reforestation through modified Taungya agroforestry system, etc.

1.5 Implementation of developed management system

The implementation of the management system was delayed due to the need for undertaking additional surveys with the nine local communities involved in the project implementation in the Ankasa Conservation Area.

Output 2: Financial value of the environmental services the Conservation Area determined

2.1 Identification of the ecosystem services provided by the Conservation area

Additional reconnaissance surveys and consultation meetings had been undertaken with stakeholders involved in the project implementation.

2.2 Determination of the financial value of these services

The report on the estimated financial value of ecosystems services provided by the Ankasa Conservation Area (ACA), which was prepared by an international expert, had been circulated to key stakeholders, for review.

Output 3: Governance and benefit sharing arrangements PES developed

3.1 Development of framework for good governance and benefit sharing for REDD

The findings and results of the discussions and interactions with key stakeholders had been collated in two technical reports, namely, i.e., 'Tenure and carbon rights in local REDD+ projects: insights from community-based workshops in South-western Ghana'; and 'Developing decision support system for optimizing benefits of agriculture land use in ACA under a REDD+ regime'. These two technical reports had been disseminated, for information sharing with relevant institutions in Ghana.

3.2 Development of best practice guidelines for forest governance

A report on good governance and benefit sharing was finalized with the findings of the two abovementioned technical studies, for the perusal by relevant institutions in Ghana, such as: Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources (FRNR) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Sciences and Technology (KNUST), Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), etc.

3.3 Stakeholder consultation to validate best practice guidelines and framework for good governance and benefit sharing

The Executing Agency (FORIG) had started converting the findings and results of the report on good governance and benefit sharing into correlated guidelines and framework, in collaboration with Ghana Forestry Commission, KNUST and FRNR.

3.4 Dissemination of good practice schemes and lessons to stakeholder groups

The holding of workshops and meetings for the dissemination of good practice schemes and lessons, described here above, had been postponed due to the delay in finalizing the best practice guidelines and framework for good governance and benefit sharing.

Output 4: Participatory methods for measurement, assessment reporting and verification (MARV) of forest carbon developed and implemented

4.1 Participatory development of verifiable method for forest carbon estimation and monitoring (based on a combination of field surveys and monitoring through satellites images)

The Executing Agency has continued its interacting with a group of experts on the challenging issue of the right and feasible methodologies in relation to field surveys on carbon estimation and monitoring.

4.2 Determination of baseline carbon stocks

A draft document on the appropriate methodologies for the determination of baseline carbon stocks had been circulated for review and comments by a group of selected experts.

4.3 Establishment of baselines of forest cover changes

The Executing Agency has continued collecting and analyzing data and information on the forest cover of the project target area which could lead to the establishment of baselines.

4.4 Participatory estimation of emissions reduction and enhancement in sequestered carbon under REDD project scenario

Continuation of sensitization campaigns that had been carried out to explain to local communities how they could be involved in a participatory process on the estimation of emissions reduction and enhancement in sequestered carbon.

Achievements, Impacts and lessons learned:

Nine local communities have been selected and sensitized on the issues regarding the deforestation and forest degradation in Ankasa Conservation Area (ACA), and most of them had been implementing the best practices for the rehabilitation of degraded lands in ACA; These nine local communities had been involved in the registration forest plantations and related trees established by them for the rehabilitation of degraded lands in ACA. The registration process had been undertaken in close collaboration with the Forest Services Division (FSD) of Ghana Forestry Commission represented by the District Forest Manager that oversees the Ankasa Conservation Area (ACA). The registration is the first and important step of the process which could lead to the tree ownership and benefit sharing scheme, for these nine local communities involved in the rehabilitation of degraded lands in ACA.

Rehabilitation of degraded forests for sustainable wood fuel production and climate change mitigation in the forest-savanna transition zone of Ghana

Project number:	RED-SPD 077/12 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 169,360
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 121,662
	Government of Ghana:	US\$ 47,698
Submitted by:	Government of Ghana	
Implementing agency:	FORIG	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project aims at contributing to reduction in rural poverty and improved income and employment while reducing deforestation and degradation and contributing to carbon sequestration in the forest savanna transition zone of Ghana. This will be achieved through sensitizing and building the capacity of commercial charcoal and firewood producers in the transition zone to plant and/or manage wood fuel plantations sustainably. Participatory approaches will be employed at all stages of the project to ensure that stakeholder needs are adequately incorporated in the choice and design of plantation regimes. Management plans will also be produced to guide communities for efficient utilization of wood fuel resources. The government of Ghana will benefit through improved resource base and sectoral information for policy decisions. Other benefits to be derived include building up of the capacity of resource managers to support forest communities to sustainably utilize and manage wood fuel resources and to reduce pressure on the natural forest estate.

Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of this small project was duly signed on 06 February 2013. An Inception Report and related Detailed Work Plan were submitted and approved by the ITTO Secretariat. The 24-month project implementation began with the disbursement of the first installment of TP funds on 14 May 2013. In accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project on-line monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: Baseline information on wood fuel production-consumption, climate change vulnerability and species stocks produced

- Activities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 have been completed for the preparation of baseline studies and related reports which had been circulated for review and comments. For the Activity 1.4, the draft report on the inventory of wood fuel species was circulated for review and comments by stakeholders.

Output 2: Demonstration/test plots of highly productive wood fuel species established on degraded lands with smallholder and large scale charcoal producers

- Activities 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.6 have been completed through a series of consultation meetings which allowed sensitizing key stakeholders and getting them involved in the implementation of these project activities.
- Activity 2.4: Acquisition of planting materials and propagation studies on priority wood fuel species. The Executing Agency had continued to collect, process and germinate seeds of *Anogeissus leiocarpus* (Kane), *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Rose wood- Krayie), *Khaya senegalensis*, *Azadrachta indica* (Neem), *Senna siamea*, *Acacia mangium*, and *Acacia cracicarpa* (exotic species), for the establishment of forest demonstration trials by selected local communities.

- Activity 2.5: Training of local communities in tree nursery establishment and management
Nurseries established by selected local community members (Nkrankra, Babatokuma and Attakura villages), who had been trained on the establishment and management of nurseries, had been operational to produce seedlings for the establishment of woodfuel demonstration plots. Nursery activities had included the thinning out of germinated seeds, potting and watering of seedlings and general nursery management, as well as some propagation techniques, seedling care and transplanting.
- Activity 2.7: Establishment of test/trial plots of highly productive wood fuel tree species using a combination of restoration techniques by enrichment or re-planting or natural regeneration of degraded sites.
Seedlings of six wood fuel tree species, namely *Acacia magnium*, *Acacia cracicarpa*, *Anogeissus leiocarpus*, *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, *Khaya senegalensis* and *Terminalia ivorensis* were distributed among selected volunteer farmers for the establishment of test/demonstration plots in 2 project villages (Dromakuma and DromaKese) in the Nkoransa North District. Seventeen (17) farmer plots, covering 3.3 ha, were planted with 3,364 seedlings of the six abovementioned tree species combined with food crops, mainly Cassava, maize, yam vegetables.
- Activity 2.8: Monitor and evaluate initial tree growth on test plots and productivity of other integrated crops periodically
As part of periodic monitoring and evaluation schedule, follow up visits had been made by the Executing Agency to all woodfuel trial plots established by selected local community members in the target project areas.

Output 3: Scientific information on wood fuel test plots management, biomass and carbon production potential, economic viability, energy characteristics of species, and potential impact on environment and livelihoods produced

- Activity 3.1: Determination of silvicultural prescriptions for management of wood fuel species in test/trial plots.
Silvicultural information on the abovementioned tree species, planted in the trial/test plots established by local communities had been compiled in relation to the management of these species in forest plantations. A draft handbook document has been prepared and circulated for the review and comments.
- Activity 3.2: Assessment of biomass production potential of the wood fuel species on test/trial plots
Framework for the assessment of biomass and carbon production potential of the wood fuel species on test/trial plots had been prepared.
- Activity 3.5: Studies on carbonization and charcoal yield potential of wood fuel species on test plots
A second round of sample collection from the wild had been completed to repeat tests on energy characteristics and studies on carbonization and charcoal yield potential of species at the laboratory. Methodologies for sampling of species and laboratory preparation and analyses have been written.
- Activity 3.6: Economic assessment of wood fuel test plots to establish their viability in the long term
An ex-ante financial analysis of the viability of wood fuel plantations based on species selected for planting in the test plots was in progress.
- Activity 3.7: Initiate studies on how communities and individuals establishing wood fuel test plots can be organized for payment of environment services (PES) schemes.
A review had been done to assess the feasibility of PES for community-based wood fuel plantation in the project target area. Issues analyzed included the following: (i) standards for certifications, registry and third party verification in voluntary carbon markets; (ii) matching wood fuel plantation PES to standards and registry schemes; (iii) identifying appropriate standard and registry scheme; and (iv) alignment of wood fuel plantation to identified standard and registry scheme.

Output 4: Stakeholders engaged to discuss and plan for sustainable wood fuel resources development and management

- Activities 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 have been completed for the identification of key stakeholders, institutions (at district and national levels) and mechanisms for the sustainable utilization of

fuelwood resources.

- Activity 4.4: Design and produce plans in a well-illustrated manual in English and appropriate local languages

A draft document containing plans for managing and developing fuelwood resources in the Kintampo Forest District had been prepared, taking into consideration policies, regulatory and legislative frameworks as well as institutional arrangements, and circulated for review and comments by stakeholders.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Nursery sites have been established in FORIG as well as in Kintampo North and Nkoranza districts of the Kintampo Forest District. Around 24,000 seedlings had been produced for distribution to farmers for the establishment of fuelwood demonstration plots. 100 farmers have been recruited to establish demonstration plots from 6 project villages between 2014 and 2015. Plots of 39 of farmers covering approximately 8ha have so far been planted. A delay in rains and prolonged droughty conditions had been the main constraint for these farmers. Stakeholders have been sensitized and engaged at the district and national levels to discuss options for sustainable fuelwood resources development and management in Ghana.

Advancing REDD+ in Ghana: preparation of REDD+ pilot schemes in off-reserve forests and agro-forests

Project number:	RED-PD 093/12 Rev.3 (F)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 366,954
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 297,205
	Government of Togo:	US\$ 69,749
Submitted by:	Government of Ghana	
Implementing agency:	Ghanaian National REDD+ Secretariat	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	REDD+ 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project is preparing a major support component to Ghana's Readiness Preparation Proposal (RPP) and aims at strengthening Ghana's capacities to prevent and reduce deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing carbon stocks (REDD+). The specific objective of the REDDES project is to lay out the ground work for the development or enhancement of off-reserve production systems under REDD+ schemes, in line with its efforts to reduce GHG emissions in forests. The project is a preparatory step for an additional support component for the implementation of Ghana's R-PP and is mainly concerned with developing a number of analytical works and the definition of REDD+ pilots in off-reserve areas. It is also aimed at developing a framework to guide the implementation of REDD+ from the national to the local level. This shall allow Ghana to take stock of existing initiatives that have the potential to be considered under REDD+, as well as to concretely analyze promising REDD+ activities, which will be an integral part of the RPP. The information produced through this project shall prepare the further implementation of agricultural and secondary forest production schemes that feature climate smart practices.

Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of this project was duly signed on 07 January 2013. An Inception Report and related Detailed Work Plan were submitted and approved by the ITTO Secretariat. The 12-month project implementation began with the disbursement of the first installment of TP funds on 29 March 2013. The project extension was granted until July 2014. No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the project Executing Agency (Ghanaian National REDD+ Secretariat) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities had been completed with both Collaborating Agencies (Forestry Research Institute of Ghana / FORIG and School of Agriculture, Forest and Food Sciences of the Bern University of Applied Sciences / HAFL).

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

- This project has contributed to build the capacity of stakeholders (especially farmers and communities) through the production and dissemination of the findings of the following reports: (1) a Guide to implement REDD+ activities in Ghana, (2) a policy brief on carbon rights in Ghana, and (3) an information note on potential of different land use systems for maintaining and enhancing carbon stocks in Ghana.
- Key stakeholders sensitized on the potential of using commercial agriculture products (cocoa, sheanut, essential oils, etc.) to reverse deforestation and forest degradation.
- A number of technical reports have been produced and are available from the ITTO project search tool http://www.itto.int/project_search/
- A publication titled "REDD+ in agricultural landscapes: evidence from Ghana's REDD+ process" was under preparation in order to summarize the key findings of the studies and surveys carried in the target project area.

Strengthening of governance and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in Guatemala as a climate change adaptation measure

Project number:	RED-SPD 079/12 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Guatemala	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 215,223
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 146,751
	INAB:	US\$ 58,320
	ARCAS:	US\$ 10.152
Submitted by:	Government of Guatemala	
Implementing agency:	INAB	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The lack of actions aimed at mangrove forest protection and management has led to the loss and degradation of mangrove ecosystems outside of protected areas; weak mangrove forest management and governance; food insecurity; and limited economic opportunities for the local communities. This project on mangrove forest protection, restoration and conservation as a climate change adaptation measure will help address these problems. It will produce increased knowledge about the dynamics and contribution of mangrove forests so as to improve their management and rehabilitation and it will strengthen and consolidate a sustainable community forest management model. At least 15 sites directly linked to the protection and management of mangrove ecosystems in the seven prioritized departments will be actively promoting the restoration, management and special protection of at least 700 hectares of mangrove forests, with the effective participation of local partners. It is expected that the development and systematization of the project experience will help strengthen and consolidate the Mangrove Forest Regulations, which include agreed guidelines for the prioritization of mangrove forests, and the management, restoration and conservation mechanisms to be implemented through the effective participation of local and government stakeholders. Through improvement of mangrove forest management and restoration, the project will create new economic opportunities and improved food security for the local communities, while contributing to the conservation of mangrove ecosystems.

Progress:

Administrative Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 10 March 2013. The Project Inception Report and the YPO have been received and approved by the ITTO Secretariat and the first disbursement of funds was transferred to the Executing Agency on 1 August 2013 and project activities commenced shortly after that. The second installment was executed in early February 2014 and the third installment released in October 2014, and both based on the prior submission and approval of the corresponding required 6-monthly progress report and updated OLMS reporting. The project was further granted an extension until December 2015 in order to allow for the successful completion of all activities.

Technical Progress:

In accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project on-line monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

Output 1: Mangrove Ecosystem Management and Conservation Program for the local communities

with a focus on climate change adaptation.

Almost all activities required to achieve this output have been implemented, as follows:

- 4 pilot areas involving 13 communities were selected for the development and implementation of community forest management plans centering on mangrove forest conservation and management, these being: Blanca Cecilia, Manchon Guamuchal, Cayo Quemado and Mangales. All four sites currently count with operational management plans focusing on mangrove forest rehabilitation, conservation, protection and production;
- The training modules on mangrove management and all related materials have been developed; and
- Training workshops to raise awareness of the local communities on the use and conservation of mangrove areas have been completed; and
- Other events continue to be carried out at the community level aimed at highlighting the significance of practices focused on improving local capacities for climate change adaptation.

Output 2: Conservation and management strategy for Guatemala's mangrove ecosystem with the effective participation of key stakeholders.

5 activities out of 7 required to achieve this output have been completed, as follows:

- A methodology was designed with the effective participation of both local and national stakeholder groups for the establishment of a National Strategy for Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation, Management and Restoration, and the strategy itself has been developed;
- 9, rather than the original 3, local roundtables have been established with the participation of key local stakeholders to develop local actions focused on mangrove conservation, management and restoration within the framework of the national strategy and also to review the draft mangrove forest regulation; and
- The activity related to the strengthening, consolidation, approval and implementation of the new mangrove forest regulation is still pending.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

To date, the following achievements can be mentioned:

- 4 pilot areas over an area of 532.27 ha with operational community forest management plans centering on mangrove conservation and management, these being: Blanca Cecilia (22.50 ha), Manchon Guamuchal (486.77 ha), Cayo Quemado (2.00 ha) and Mangales (21.00).
- Training modules and materials for the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves have been developed and disseminated among the stakeholder communities, and are readily available for further dissemination elsewhere;
- A National Strategy for Mangrove Ecosystem Conservation, Management and Restoration has been developed in a participatory manner and has been submitted to the competent government authorities (INAB and CONAP) for their review and approval; and
- 9 local roundtables established with the participation of key local stakeholders are currently active in the development of local actions focused on mangrove conservation, management and restoration within the framework of the draft national strategy.

The Project has also to date produced several outputs and products, among them several technical documents, of which the following are worthwhile mentioning:

- 1) Módulos de capacitación: características, uso y conservación de áreas manglar
- 2) Reglamento para el manejo sostenible del recurso forestal del ecosistema manglar
- 3) Estrategia para el manejo y conservación del bosque manglar en Guatemala
- 4) Planes de manejo comunitario

These publications, describing the achievements, impacts and lessons learnt of the project, will also be uploaded onto the ITTO website for a greater dissemination to all our member countries and other interested parties, and are available from the ITTO project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/.

Promoting local community initiatives on the rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystems with demonstration activities in Bintan Island to reduce further deforestation and forest degradation.

Project number:	RED-PD 064/11 Rev.2 (F)	
Project country:	Indonesia	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 555,887
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 504,317
	Government of Indonesia	US\$ 51,570
Submitted by:	Government of Indonesia	
Implementing agency:	Directorate General of Watershed Development and Social Forestry, Indonesia	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

This project aims at the improvement of mangrove ecosystem quality in Indonesia through local community participation, using a demonstration area on Bintan Island. The specific objective is to control, through local communities, the further exploitation of mangrove areas in order to reduce further forest degradation. The expected outputs of the project are: (1) A Draft Policy Legislation on Mangrove Forest Management formulated; (2) Improved capacity of communities to rehabilitate degraded mangrove forest area. It is expected that after project completion, Bintan's strategy on mangrove forest management will be institutionalized and adopted at various levels for an action program to improve mangrove ecosystems by local communities and thus also promote the reduction of deforestation and degradation. The successful implementation of the project will generate awareness among local people and stakeholders to participate in managing mangrove forest in a sustainable way. Local governments, communities and private sector will get incentives from the ongoing effort in implementing conservation and forest management in reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

Progress:

The project was approved under the REDDES 3rd Cycle (2011). The project commenced implementation in March 2013 and a project steering committee meeting occurred in January 2014.

Project progress reports were received on schedule in August 2013 and 2014, respectively. The final report and audit report were received by the ITTO Secretariat in early 2015. All reports are available on request from the Secretariat, as are the minutes of the PSC meeting. The government of Indonesia introduced new forest legislation relevant to mangroves in 2012 prior to the start of project implementation, so activities and relevant budget lines were adjusted with the approval of ITTO to take this into account. All project staff and experts were recruited as planned and work has been completed to establish baseline data on the extent/condition of Bintan's mangroves, including studies on carbon emissions and sequestration potential. A study on the social and economic condition of Bintan communities living in or near mangroves has been carried out and existing mangrove-related policies and regulations in Bintan have been reviewed. Activities to facilitate stakeholder coordination in development of Bintan's mangrove policies/regulations were also undertaken, as was establishment of a mangrove education center. The project successfully achieved its planned outputs and objectives within the planned 24 month duration. The project completed all activities with a significant saving (over \$100,000) in the project budget; these funds have been returned to the REDDES account following unsuccessful negotiations with the Executing Agency regarding a proposal to use the funds for follow-up work.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

- Report received from consultants on the socio-economic condition of Bintan mangrove communities
- Report received from consultants on Bintan's existing mangrove regulations/policies
- Report received on stakeholder coordination activities
- Report received on establishment of a mangrove education center
- Final report received

A number of additional technical reports (some only in Bahasa Indonesia) are available from the ITTO database through the ITTO project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/

The project has resulted in increased awareness amongst communities in Bintan on the importance of mangroves and helped to formalize the role of local communities in mangrove planning and policy making in Bintan and elsewhere in Indonesia. Project outputs have provided key inputs to Indonesia's evolving policy on mangrove conservation and sustainable use. The reorganization of the Ministry of Forestry (which underwent a merger with the Ministry of Environment in early 2015) led to some confusion at the end of the project but this did not negatively impact attainment of project outputs or objectives

Improving efficacy of forestry policies and activities in Liberia through REDD+ demonstration projects

Project number:	RED-SPD 084/12 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Liberia	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 308,718
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 149,922
	NORAD:	US\$ 158,796
Submitted by:	Government of Liberia	
Implementing agency:	Forest Development Authority and Flora & Fauna International (FFI)	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

As Liberia emerges from conflict, avoidable threats to its forests remain, including shifting agriculture, illegal and quasi-legal logging, and wide-scale conversion to agro-industrial crops. Underlying these issues are key threats associated with low national capacity coupled with a lack of large scale livelihood development interventions. Faced with these challenges, the Government of Liberia has been actively exploring options for REDD+ development- however, a demonstration site is critically lacking. The project proposes to support the establishment of two on-the-ground demonstration projects for testing pro-poor REDD+ approaches that are replicable and will feed into improving the efficiency, equity and efficacy of forestry policies and activities in Liberia. Adopting a grassroots and participatory approach, the project will support the establishment of tenure arrangements and equitable benefit sharing and ensure good governance, with a key focus on community rights and gender equity. Project activities will support the development of sustainable livelihoods, with a pro-poor approach underpinning all activities.

Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of this small project was duly signed on 27 May 2013. An Inception Report and related Detailed Work Plan were submitted and approved by the ITTO Secretariat. The 12-month project implementation began with the disbursement of the first installment of TP funds on 12 July 2013. The project extension was granted until January 2015 due to the delay caused by the Ebola virus outbreak in the implementation of some project activities. In accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project on-line monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: Increased awareness of rights and responsibilities with regard to the community rights law, climate change, sustainable forest management and REDD amongst stakeholders, with a particular emphasis on the rural poor

- Activity 1.1: A series of accessible radio programmes were designed and broadcasted both on national radio and translated into local dialects for transmission to local communities in the project target areas. These radio broadcast sensitization campaigns had positively contributed to resume project activities through the re-engagement of communities, after several months of project activities being suspended due to the Ebola virus outbreak.
- Activity 1.2 Creation and support of a permanent roving technical team for information sharing and sensitization in the two demonstration site areas - the technical roving team using the Principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been working in the communities to increase the awareness and understanding of local people about REDD process.

Output 2: Improved local capacity to engage in monitoring, reporting and verification of forest carbon, biodiversity degradation and deforestation

- Activity 2.1 Community Management Committee and Working Groups were formed and operational for each demonstration site targeted by the implementation of this project.

- Activity 2.2 Training needs assessment had been done as it related to the capacity of both the community and the local implementing partners. However, the project had taken a fluid approach to the evolving needs at the sites of Taijuowon and Wolengizi counties.
- Activity 2.3: In-situ training and on the job advisory work of Community Management Team and Working Groups - the members of the Community Forest Management Committee (CFMC) had regularly participated in training activities aim at building their capacity to effectively represent their communities. They had also participated in field training (camera trapping, forest survey, community engagement) that had exposed them to the details of the project so that they could be able to effectively present the project idea in the community.

Output 3: Two community-led REDD demonstration projects developed, including establishment of BSM and MRV systems with provisions for measuring carbon, forest cover and co-benefits – biodiversity and livelihoods.

- Activity 3.1: Clarification of land and carbon ownership rights in demonstration sites with FDA and Liberia Land Commission - though there are mentions of the value of PES in the forest reform law and accompanying regulations, there is no specific mention of carbon. Hence the project had been working with the FDA and Liberia Land Commission, and subsequently hired a prominent local lawyer to review the policies relating to the forestry sector to make a legal argument for the 'special allowance' of the sales of carbon from the project.
- Activity 3.2: Review of existing benefit sharing schemes and MRV models had been undertaken by a team of experts under the supervision of FDA, Liberia Land Commission and FFI.
- Activity 3.3: Design of community-led BSM and MRV systems with provisions for measuring carbon, forest cover and co-benefits - biodiversity and livelihoods - after discussions with partners. It was agreed that benefits derived from the project will be distributed based on the size of communities as ultimately the project seeks to benefit people.
- Activity 3.4: Field training and finalization of developed models - there had been field training on the developed models used for the plan vivo in Taijuowon and Wolengizi counties, as it related to the zones in which communities were grouped in based on proximity.
- Activity 3.5: Production of 'reference' scenarios for carbon, biodiversity and socio-economic - using satellite imagery, data from biodiversity survey and community engagement. The reference scenario for deforestation and degradation has been developed for future comparative analysis.
- Activity 3.6: Community members in the project sites at Taijuowon and Wolengizi counties were involved in the implementation of pilot activities regarding land tenure and tree ownership and benefit sharing mechanisms, with a key focus on community rights and the consideration of gender equity. These activities, which were suspended during the Ebola virus outbreak, had resumed with the project support.

Output 4: Project Development Documents produced for a minimum of one REDD+ demonstration project(s) designed to fulfil VCS and CCB standards achieves verification after 3rd party audit.

- Activity 4.1: Multi-stakeholder development surveys had been undertaken in the demonstration site had been undertaken, and the technical specification had been under review by stakeholders, with special focus on the roles, liabilities and benefit sharing of stakeholders.
- Activity 4.2: A sensitization campaign had been carried out for the explanation of Plan Vivo system linked to best practice as set out by the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards and the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS). In compliance with these standards, emphasis had been placed on the development of a baseline and monitoring and evaluation methodology.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

- Local capacity had been improved on how to engage in monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of forest carbon, biodiversity degradation and deforestation;
- Two community-led REDD+ demonstration projects had been developed, including establishment of BSM (Benefits Sharing Mechanism) and MRV (Monitoring Reporting and Verification) systems with provisions for measuring carbon, forest cover and co-benefits – biodiversity and livelihoods, in Taijuowon and Wolengizi counties.
- The progress of the project has been very encouraging with the deepening interest of the participating communities, although the suspension of project activities during the Ebola virus outbreak in Liberia.

Reducing forest degradation and emissions through sustainable forest management (SFM) in peninsular Malaysia

Project number:	RED-PD 037/11 Rev.2 (F)	
Project country:	Malaysia	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 864,622
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 590,922,
	Government of Malaysia	US\$ 273,700
Submitted by:	Government of Malaysia	
Implementing agency:	Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM)	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Forest management in Malaysia is based on the Selective Management System (SMS) which involves the selection of a management regime to optimize not only the objectives of efficient and economic harvesting and sustained yield but, more importantly, to ensure that forest development is ecologically and environmentally sustainable. However, forest degradation in terms of carbon stocks is occurring in production forests as a result of logging operations. Logging operations in Malaysia in the past have also been reported to be damaging, but significant improvements have been made. The extent of current forest degradation in terms of carbon stocks needs to be further studied as it is still not well understood in Malaysia. Reports have indicated that improved forest management could reduce degradation and reduce carbon emission. However, all these studies are confined to specific areas and with limited information for scaling up activities. Consequently, this project is implemented to assess enhancement of climate change mitigation through reduced emissions from forest degradation in Malaysia. Specifically, the project will determine emissions from forest degradation in logged forests and assess the value of enhancing forest management practices to reduce emissions from forest degradation. Financial evaluations of the improved management practices will be undertaken to provide avenues for assessing payment for ecosystem services.

Progress:

The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 18 January 2012. The implementation of the project commenced in February 2013 after finishing administrative arrangements. The third Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting was held on 4 June 2015 under the chairmanship of Datuk Dr Abdul Rahim Hj. Nik, Deputy Secretary General (Environment), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE). The PSC meeting reviewed the progress made by the project and made several recommendations including contributing to scientific papers resulting from the implementation of interesting project activities to relevant international journals. Since the Fiftieth Council Session and in accordance with the most recent project progress report submitted by the Executing Agency, progress in the implementation is summarized as follows:

Output 1: National forest degradation estimated

- Analysis on carbon pools of samples and data from a project site in Pahang State is continuing. The site is located in Ulu Jelai Forest Reserve, Lipis, Pahang where an improved logging method of RIL (Rimbaka) has been introduced.
- A technical book entitled "Reference Emission Level for REDD+ in Pahang" is targeted to be published by the 4th quarter of 2015.
- The project team attended a training course on Trainers on Climate Change and REDD+ on 25-30 May 2015 at Center for Forestry Education and Training (CFET), Bogor Indonesia which was sponsored by Korean-ASEAN Forest Cooperation (AFoCo). Results of the project research were presented as a case study in the training.

Output 2: Forest degradation reduced at the forest management unit

- A survey on soil, litter, sapling and deadwood carbon in low impact logging area of Ulu Jelai Forest Reserve, Lipis, Pahang was conducted to estimate carbon changes before and after logging from 24 March to 2 April 2015. This area was logged by using a Rimbaka Timber Harvester machine.

Output 3: Incentives for carbon and ecosystem services established

- Methodology in conducting an opportunity cost study had been reviewed.
- Based on four main ecosystem services identified by MEA (2005) and in line with the original project proposal, 3 ecosystem services of the project site have been studied. To date, only two ecosystem services had been selected and finalized, which is carbon and watershed. The remaining, the subject of social (livelihood) aspects is still under discussion.
- A draft framework and design for PES (carbon and watershed) is under review.
- Coaching session on economic valuation of ecosystem services was held on 9-11 March 2015 at Bangi-Putrajaya Hotel, Malaysia

Output 4: Capacity of major stakeholders and communities where relevant is strengthened

- A stakeholders' consultation workshop on "Identifying and Addressing Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Pahang State, Malaysia" was held on 7- 9 December 2014 at Awana Hotel, Genting Highlands, Pahang. Presentations of the workshop include the project's results on the assessment of land use changes over 20 years to identify the drivers of deforestation in Pahang.
- The project team attended the International Workshop on REDD+ and Sustainable Landuse Management on 16-18 Dec 2014 at Forest Department of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The project team presented a paper entitled "Identifying Drivers of Deforestation and Developing Reference Emission Level for REDD+ In Peninsular Malaysia" and a poster entitled "Assessing Deforestation Rates and Changes of Carbon Stock on mangroves in Pahang".
- The project team continued to share project results at many national and international meetings. These include attending the International Seminar REDD+ Finance Mechanism and Its Optimum Use-How to Incentive Forest Conservation held on 3-4 February 2015 at Tokyo University which was organised by the FFPRI of Japan.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The project team has established a project's Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/FRIM-ITTO-REDD/277076555767504> and updated project-related information. The project has produced a series of project briefs, namely: Achieving REDD+ through SFM in Peninsular Malaysia; Carbon Emission from Deforestation in Pahang, Malaysia; Biomass and carbon changes from different harvesting techniques in Pahang, Malaysia; regional technical training on carbon assessment; and technical training on logging emissions.

Environmental assessment and economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by coastal forests (mangrove forests, flood forests, rain forests and scrub forests on dunes) and their agricultural replacement systems on the central coastal plain of Veracruz, Mexico

Project number:	RED-PD 045/11 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Mexico	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 871,825
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 470,682
	Institute of Ecology (INECOL), Mexico	US\$ 401,143
Submitted by:	Government of Mexico	
Implementing agency:	Institute of Ecology (INECOL)	
Duration:	36 months (+7 month extension)	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project aims at a quantitative assessment of the goods and services provided by the various types of tropical forests and coastal forests (mangrove forests, tropical flood forests, rain forests and scrub forests on dunes), on the coastal plains of Veracruz in the Gulf of Mexico. Services to be evaluated will include flood containment, carbon sequestration, improved water quality, and accelerated regeneration). These services will also be assessed from the economic point of view, and criteria will be developed jointly with local communities for monitoring and valuing these benefits, thus encouraging sustainable use of these ecosystems. A comparison will be drawn between technical data and local community perceptions of potential benefits and products from these tropical forests, and the evaluation of services gained for paddocks and agricultural fields created by cutting down these ecosystems. Material will be developed to publicize valuation and assessment of environmental services outcomes among the population, and workshops will be organised with government sectors to transfer information and seek their inclusion in payment for environmental services schemes. The project will contribute to sustainable forest management and to the valuation of coastal forests with similar conditions throughout the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Pacific Region.

Progress:

The first installment of the project was done in May 2012. By now the project has achieved the following outputs:

Output 1: Environmental and socio-economic diagnosis of resources derived from forests and coastal forests on the central coastal plains of Veracruz, Mexico:

Results on 'perceptions on local communities':

- The survey has been conducted with a universe of 171 people with 5 types of questionnaires in six communities of the state of Veracruz.
- Results from the surveys are now available, and local communities understand the relation of the preservation of the coastal ecosystem with their well-being and livelihoods, including use of timber, fire wood, palms, medicinal plants, flora and fauna.
- Two publications are foreseeing from the research conducted:
 - Catalogue on local medicinal plants (published). This particular publication was written by a group of local women, with the assistance of the Executing Agency, and includes 44 local species, and
 - Perceptions of local communities on coastal forest and their environmental services (draft available)

Results on 'restoration techniques':

- The project conducted filed study on economical restoration techniques that can be used by local

communities, such as through the poles for birds for distribution of seeds, and tramps to catch seeds.

- A manual on forest restoration will be published (draft available)

Output 2: Aerial technical evaluation of plant productivity, in coastal forests and their replacement agricultural systems and organic carbon content in these ecosystems and evaluation of the role of the soil in the containment of floods and in hydrological flows and water quality in mangroves and flood forests:

- Field work has been concluded.
- The research has shown that the most productive ecosystems in sequestration of carbon content are rain forest, secondary vegetation and dunes. These ecosystems also retain sand and avoid the erosion of beaches.
- Ecosystems such as rain forest and fresh water marsh are of higher importance for flood containment and to regulate the water cycle. Some regions of rain forests contain as much as 4 gr of water per gram of soil. These ecosystems are quite sensible to land-use change.
- Restoration of paddocks also improves the soil capacity of flood containment.
- The loss of containment capacity is highly correlated to the organic carbon sequestered in the soil.
- These ecosystems are threatened by land-use change for livestock, and human settlements.
- Research activities are still ongoing.

Output 3: Evaluation of the role of native trees in these ecosystems in various agricultural-silvicultural-livestock benefits:

- The research work will conclude with a manual of best practices in the use of endemic trees in paddocks (draft available).

Output 4: Economic valuation of environmental services, included in an economic value that can be incorporated into government policies and instruments:

- The project studied the economic valuation of the following environmental services:
- carbon sequestration,
- conservation of water quality for fisheries,
- water catchment and purification,
- flood containment,
- connectivity and restoration of ecosystems, and
- biodiversity conservation
- The economic valuation took into account the opportunity costs (direct and indirect), the implementation costs and the transaction costs for each service.

Output 5: To encourage rural community involvement in the project and to develop and distribute information to decision-makers, CONAFOR technical experts and rural communities, so that they can incorporate the outcomes of the project in their practices and activities:

- The involvement of local communities has been constant throughout project execution, including surveys, research activities, field monitoring activities, drafting and review of publications and promotional material.
- Plant cover and land use maps, with distinct general categories (tree cover, native herbaceous cover and agricultural/ livestock paddock systems) for the project area, with the purpose of environmental service spatial mapping, are being implemented during the extension of the project.

Output 6: Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the results obtained in the pilot restoration sites, and reproduction of plants for forest restoration:

- Field activities in selected sites to monitor forest restoration through the use of artificial perches and isolated trees have been recently concluded
- A draft manual for forest restoration is now available.
- Courses and workshops are scheduled to happen on 2015.
- A draft dissemination video is now available.

Output 7: An agreed proposal and operational strategies for its implementation by local users, relevant government authorities and NGOs with experience in the payment of the environmental services evaluated:

- The EA has been working with local stakeholders during the research activities, who have even provided feedback to refine outputs.
- Training workshops with local communities took place during the second semester of 2014.

- Training for governmental authorities will be tailored in terms of information for decision and policy making. Results were shared with federal and state governments in June 2015 with the attendance of high level state authorities, including the State Minister of Environment and the State Delegate for the National Ministry of Environment, in addition to representatives of other government agencies and research institutions. The quality of the research was praised by the officials who requested the EA to make presentations to decision making authorities at a higher level.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Project activities have heavily involved the participation of local communities, who are the owners of the forests that provide several environmental services on the coastal plains of Veracruz, in the Gulf of Mexico. Such involvement has already created awareness among the locals about the benefits derived from the forest, the importance of its preservation and its sustainable management. In fact, the authors of the publication on medicinal plants are the women from the community of "Jamapa".

The quality of the research was praised by the officials from the State and Federal governments at the presentation made in June 2015. The government officials requested the EA to make presentations to decision making authorities at a higher level.

The project is intending to publish five publications. Drafts of all publications are giving due credit to ITTO, these and are as follows:

- Catalogue on local medicinal plants (published)
- Perceptions of local communities on coastal forest and their environmental services
- Manual of best practices in the use of endemic trees in paddocks
- Manual on forest restoration

In addition the following outreach material is being produced, which also give proper recognition to ITTO:

- Two posters on environmental services (published)
- One comic book (published)
- Four brochures (published)
- Video (under production)

As a result of the field work conducted, the project team has published four scientific articles in Ocean and coastal management scientific journal, which also give proper recognition to ITTO.

Project results are also available a <http://www1.inecol.edu.mx/costasustentable/esp/presentacion.htm>

In terms of project sustainability, it is clear from the research and field work conducted so far, that PSA activities outside the national programmes are not feasible, what is needed are productive alternatives link to conservation and restoration, such as silviculture and agroforestry, and plantations for firewood, ecotourism and handicraft making. In terms of continuation of project activities after completion, the EA will remain involved in conducting further research in the subject as it is part of its mandate. It is desirable that presentation of results may take place at higher levels within the government as that can have a higher impact for future action.

Capacity building for developing REDD+ activities in the context of sustainable forest management

Project number:	RED-PD 038/11 Rev.3 (F)	
Project country:	Myanmar	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 645,692
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 571,890
	Government of Myanmar	US\$ 73,802
Submitted by:	Government of Myanmar	
Implementing agency:	Forest Department/Forest Research Institute. Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MOECAF), Myanmar.	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

Forests in Myanmar have contributed to the provision of abundant benefits to local, regional and global communities especially in reducing Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and enhancing forest carbon stocks and environmental services. The Toungoo District in the Bago Yoma region of Myanmar is approximately 1,064,939 ha and it will be used as project site. Implementation on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and Enhancing Forest Carbon Stocks (REDD-plus) through sustainable forest management requires understanding and participation by all stakeholders. As the concept and methodologies of REDD-plus are new to Myanmar, capacity building and awareness raising for all levels of stakeholders are of crucial importance, and urgently needed. Accordingly, the development objective of this project is to contribute to sustainable forest management in the Bago Yoma region to improve the provision of environmental services and reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and degradation and enhancement of carbon stocks. The specific objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Forestry in REDD-plus initiatives. The expected outputs are: (i) REDD-plus national strategies prepared, (ii) Institutional setting for capacity building on REDD-plus strengthened and (iii) Capacity built to conduct MRV of the carbon stock

Progress:

The project was approved and financed under the REDDES 1st Cycle 2011. After the conclusion of the necessary administrative arrangements including the project agreement, the Executing Agency commenced the project in October 2012. Since the Fiftieth Council Session and in accordance with the most recent project progress report submitted by the Executing Agency, progress in the implementation can be summarized as follows:

Output 1.1 REDD-plus national strategy prepared

- International Workshop on REDD+ and Sustainable Landuse Management in Myanmar was organized on 16th~18th December 2014 at Forest Department, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar in collaboration with several partners including AFoCo, UNU-IAS and Kyushu University in Japan. The workshop report has been published and distributed to interested parties. The report can be downloaded at http://www.mediafire.com/view/0es68qf44pd74y1/Proceeding_of_International_Workshop_on_REDD_and_sustainable_landuse_management_in_Myanmar_%2816-18.12.2014%29.pdf
- An extension and educational public talk about forest, climate change and efficient stove was conducted at Let Pan Kone Village, Kyo Pin Thar Village and Thine Wa Village on 10th January 2015. On 5th April 2015, another extension and public educational talk relating to forest, climate change and combatting illegal logging was conducted at Than Dadar Village, Okpho Village and Thit Poke Pin Village of Yedahse Township, Taungoo District. During the two public talks, a total of 240 efficient stoves was distributed to villagers.

Output 1.2 Institutional setting for capacity building on REDD-plus strengthened

- A training course for free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) was held on 30 March - 3 April 2015 at Forest Research Institute, Yezin, Myanmar in order to clearly understand FPIC procedures and techniques and to be able to apply practically such skills in the field. It was attended by a total of 30 trainees including 28 Deputy Rangers from Forest Department and Dry Zone Greening Department.
- On 20-29 May 2015, a training course on development of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and livelihood opportunities of rural people to support rural development was held at the Pawlangyi Forest Camp, Paukhaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Region. A total of 26 trainees engaged in forest conservation activities in the region attended this training.

Output 1.3 Capacity to conduct MRV of carbon stock built

- MRV Report has been prepared by Dr Moe Myint, MNR II, Kyaw Thinn Latt and Kyaw Zay Ya (WCS-Myanmar). This study estimates the above ground forest biomass, above ground forest carbon, timber volume, basal area and number of trees on the National Forest Inventory data (2013) of Taungoo Forest Division. The study's outcomes include that 1.05% of annual deforestation rate was occurred in Taungoo District based on the forest cover changes on the Landsat Satellite imageries of years 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The project team has established a project's Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/redd.psd.fd.moecaf> and updated project-related information. The project duration has been extended from 1st October 2015 to 30th June 2016 without additional funds. Main activities to be implemented during the extension include: organization of an international workshop on REDD+, women and sustainable land use in Myanmar; production of publications such as REDD+ Glossary, MRV guideline Book and National REDD+ Strategy; and organization of a joint side event between FD and ITTO at UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris in December 2015. The side event proposal entitled "REDD+ within INDCs: Governance lessons learnt from community forest management in the tropics" on 1 December 2015 was approved by UNFCCC Secretariat as an official side event.

Sustainable forest management and utilization of ecosystem services in forests managed by the Ese'Eja native community in Infierno, Peru

Project number:	RED-PD 018/09 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Peru	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 523,319
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 356,519
	Government of Peru	US\$ 166,800
Submitted by:	Government of Peru	
Implementing agency:	Association for Investigation and Development, AIDER	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 2 nd Cycle 2009	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

The project is aimed at strengthening the management of forests over which the community has acquired utilization rights, so as to penetrate the emerging ecosystem services markets and thus generate additional income to allow the community to obtain resources for the adequate management of their territory and ecotourism concession. It will be implemented in the Ese'Eja native community of Infierno where a forest concession was granted by the Peruvian Government to the community for ecotourism purposes in areas located in the Madre de Dios region (Peru), within the buffer zone of the Tambopata National Reserve and the Bahuaja Sonene National Park. Community capacities will be developed for the planning and establishment of agreements approved by all community members for the use of forest resources and services, thus establishing the basis for the development of a project for the reduction of emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). Recognizing that well-defined utilization and marketing rights are a vital prerequisite for access to these markets, the project will facilitate the formalization of rights to trade ecosystem services and to resolve existing land tenure conflicts in the concession area. These objectives will be met with support from the Peruvian government, which will allow the community to progress towards sustainable development.

Administrative Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 8 June 2010. The Project Inception Report and the Detailed Work Programme have been received and approved by the ITTO Secretariat and the first disbursement of funds was transferred to the Executing Agency on 13 September 2010 and project activities commenced shortly after that. The second, third and last disbursement of funds for the implementation of the project were respectively made as made in July 2011, July 2012 and October 2013, after the Executing Agency submitted the required documentation for each disbursement and the ITTO Secretariat evaluated and approved these

The project's Steering Committee met for the first time at the end of June 2011 in Lima and further visited the Ese'Eja native community of Infierno, verifying in situ the current situation of the communities and forests there at that moment. The second and third meetings of the Steering Committee were also held at the Ese'Eja native community of Infierno, in Madre de Dios, Peru in June 2012 and November 2013. The fourth and last meeting was held in March 2015 in Lima, Peru. At this meeting, the Committee assessed the current situation in the completion of the project's activities and further provided recommendations so as to successfully finalize the project. In addition, it appraised all technical documents and other products prepared by the project, and discussed with the EA the critical pending issues, such as the final audited report and the validation of the REDD Project Design Document for territories of the Ese'Eja native community of Infierno. A strong emphasis was made on the sustainability of activities after completion and on the ensuing impacts it could create in the long-term. The project completed its activities in April 2015. The Secretariat has received the Completion Report, several technical documents, and the Final Audited Report and, as such, is reporting this project as completed.

Technical Progress:

The Project's field activities were completed in May 2014 and the overall project was reported as completed in April 2015. In accordance with the project document, all the planned activities were carried out during the project's lifespan and its achievements can be summarized by major outputs and products envisaged by the project, as follows:

Output 1: There is community consensus on the priority actions for the management of forest resources

100% of the activities required to achieve this output were completed, as follows:

- A socio-economic study of the Ese'Eja native community of Infierno was finalized;
- Utilizing the aforementioned socio-economic study as a basis, several community-wide workshops were organized to evaluate the current and potential use of natural resources. Moreover, based on the inputs obtained at these workshops, a diagnostic study was done on the use, impact and actors involved in the management of the natural resources in the region
- A strategy and an action plan for community forest management was developed in a participatory manner; and
- An office was established in the community center to enable capacity development within the community and is currently operational. Presentations and workshops have been conducted.

Output 2: Legal rights for the use of forest resources in the community territory and ecotourism concession area are endorsed and secured

100% of the activities required to achieve this output were finalized, as follows:

- The study on legal community rights over their forest resources and territory was completed and socialized with the communities involved;
- Based on the aforementioned study, some legal and topographic exercises were carried out to physically delimit the communal territory and further define and permanently attain the legal ownership rights; and
- Community involvement in developing a policy on PES was ensured via participatory sub-activities.

Output 3: Community forest management incorporated as part of a REDD scheme

100% of the activities required to achieve this output have been completed, as follows:

- AIDER participated in the development of the Madre de Dios Regional Baseline. Moreover, it presided over the Deforestation Analysis and Modelling Sub-Commission of the Madre de Dios Roundtable on Environmental Services and REDD (MESAR), and was also a member of the Carbon Sub-Commission;
- Thematic cartography was completed, and the community now has a forest stratification map of its territory and its ecotourism concession. An analysis of the historic deforestation within the aforementioned area was also completed. In addition, the carbon inventory was finalized and disseminated among the locals as a technical document;
- The project formulated a REDD Project Design Document (PDD) for the Ese'Eja community forests of Infierno, following the standards developed by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS); and
- The validation process was finalized by AENOR, a Spanish VCS-CCB validation and verification company, and its' report is expected shortly. The community is currently in a position to offer carbon credits on the voluntary market.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Overall, there was a delay in the implementation of the project. This was mainly due to the validation and verification of the REDD Project Design Document (PDD) developed for the Ese'Eja community forests of Infierno, which was carried out by the external Spanish VCS-CCB validation and verification company,

AENOR, and took much longer than initially planned. The Project, however, has produced many outputs and products, among them the REDD Project Design Document (PDD), several studies, maps and technical documents, among others. Among these, the following are worthwhile mentioning:

1. Estudio socioeconómico de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno.
2. Diagnóstico del uso, impacto y actores involucrados con la gestión de los recursos naturales del bosque de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno.
3. Guía de campo para la estimación del carbono almacenado en la biomasa de los bosques administrados por la Comunidad Nativa Ese'Eja de Infierno y su concesión de ecoturismo en la Región Madre de Dios
4. Estimación del carbono almacenado en la biomasa de los bosques administrados por la Comunidad Nativa Ese'Eja de Infierno y su concesión de ecoturismo en la Región Madre de Dios
5. Estimación de los cambios en el carbono almacenado y emisiones de gases efecto invernadero producidas por deforestación no planificada en escenario de línea base de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno –Región Madre de Dios.
6. Estudio legal para ratificar y mantener los derechos legales de uso de los recursos del bosque en el territorio comunal y en la concesión de ecoturismo de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno
7. Topografía legal de la Comunidad Nativa Ese'Eja Infierno
8. Plan de acción para la gestión del bosque de la Comunidad Nativa de Infierno
9. Memoria Descriptiva del Territorio Comunal de Infierno con Resolución de Reconocimiento.
10. Documento de Proyecto (PD) VCS REDD+ “EVIO KUIÑAJI ESE'EJA CUANA, PARA MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, MADRE DE DIOS – PERÚ”
11. Anexo metodológico del Documento de Proyecto (PD) VCS REDD+ “EVIO KUIÑAJI ESE'EJA CUANA, PARA MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, MADRE DE DIOS – PERÚ”
12. Documento de Diseño de Proyecto (PDD) CCB REDD+ “EVIO KUIÑAJI ESE'EJA CUANA, PARA MITIGAR EL CAMBIO CLIMATICO, MADRE DE DIOS – PERÚ”
13. Reporte de monitoreo del primer periodo de reducción de emisiones.

These publications, describing the achievements, impacts and lessons learnt of the project, have also been uploaded onto the ITTO website (in Spanish only) for a greater dissemination to all our member countries and other interested parties, and are available from the ITTO project search tool at http://www.itto.int/project_search/.

Among other achievements and impacts, as reflected in the project's REDDES Monitoring Protocol report, the following are worth highlighting:

- 11,000 hectares under sustainable forest management. The native community of Infierno implements forest management actions in their community forest.
- One avoided deforestation initiative based on native communities with defined land rights and use of natural resources and 11, 000 hectares of forests with forest cover and changing land use under control.
- One forest landscape restoration initiative: A demonstration project managed by the community was established to recover degraded areas with additional funding from the international cooperation (IICA -Finland).
- The native community of Infierno is to perceive additional revenues derived from a REDD project.
- The native community of Infierno has developed a greater awareness of ecosystem services provided by their community forests.
- The native community of Infierno has become skilled in the REDD, PES, sustainable forest management and forest restoration activities.

Value adding to environmental services from managed forests belonging to seven communities in the Ucayali region

Project number:	RED-PD 033/11 Rev.3 (F)	
Project country:	Peru	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 654,965
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 415,384
	Government of Peru	US\$ 239,581
Submitted by:	Government of Peru	
Implementing agency:	Asociación para la Investigación y el Desarrollo Integral – AIDER	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

The project is to be implemented in the territories of 7 native communities of the Ucayali Region. It is aimed at strengthening the management of community forests and enhancing the capacities of indigenous communities to incorporate the marketing of carbon and other environmental services into integrated forest management practices in order to penetrate carbon markets. This will allow the communities to generate additional income, providing them with the resources required for the adequate administration of their territories and management of their forests. The project will develop community skills for the planning and conclusion of agreements among all members regarding the use of forest goods and services, thus establishing the basis for the development of a project to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) and for the adjustment of forest production processes to the PES (payment for environmental services) scheme. The proposal is based on the premise that clearly defined use and marketing rights are an essential pre-requisite to access these markets. These objectives will be achieved with the support of the Peruvian government, which will ensure the progress of the communities towards sustainable development

Progress:

Administrative Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 28 February 2012. The Project Inception Report and the Detailed Work Programme have been received and approved by the ITTO Secretariat and the first disbursement of funds was transferred to the Executing Agency on 3 April 2012 and project activities commenced shortly after that. The project's Steering Committee met for the first time at the end of August 2012 in Lima to review and guide the project in its start-up activities. To date all disbursements of funds have been transferred to AIDER, after verifying the executing agency's compliance with the conditions established for each of these, the last being transferred in March 2014. The second and third meetings of the Steering Committee were also held in Peru, at both the involved communities in Pucallpa and in Lima, Peru in November 2012 and October 2013 respectively. The fourth and last meeting was held in March 2015 in Lima, Peru. At this meeting, the Committee assessed the current situation in the completion of the project's activities and further provided recommendations so as to successfully finalize the project. The project completed its activities in April 2015. The Secretariat has received the Completion Report, several technical documents and the Final Audited Report and, as such, is reporting this project as completed.

Technical Progress:

The Project's field activities were completed in October 2014 and the overall project was reported as completed in April 2015. In accordance with the project document, all the planned activities were carried out during the project's lifespan and its achievements can be summarized by major outputs and products envisaged by the project, as follows:

Output 1: Native communities have acquired the technical capacity to improve their efficiency in forest management, complying with the conditions required by REDD.

100% of this output has been achieved, as follows:

- A diagnostic study was carried out in each of the seven communities via participatory workshops, in order to establish their training needs in forest management for timber, non-timber forest products and environmental services;
- Based on the results of the aforementioned diagnostic studies, a training plan was developed based on their knowledge needs;
- Based on the training plan, several specific training modules were designed, developed and implemented at the 7 native communities, particularly on topics such as strengthening community organizational capacities, SFM, RIL, and the use of field instruments, among others. Overall, 15 people from each community are now trained in SFM techniques and the sustainable production of timber and non-timber products;
- 7 annual timber harvesting plans have been approved by the competent authorities and implemented by the communities for two years in a row; and
- 2 NTFP management plans have been approved by the competent authorities and operational;

Output 2: REDD forms part of the forest management planning in the 7 communities.

100% of this output has also been achieved, as follows:

- A participatory rural diagnostic was carried out and a plan was further developed for the communal awareness campaign;
- REDD training workshops have been carried out in the seven communities: Buenos Aires, Curiaca, Flor de Ucayali, Pueblo Nuevo, Puerto Nuevo, Sinchi Roca and Roya. 35 workshops were organized and 105 locals have been trained in REDD mechanisms;
- A study to stratify the forest and other areas in the project's area of influence has been completed;
- A study on the carbon stocks has been completed for the project's area of influence;
- A study on the historic quantification of the accumulated deforestation in the project's area of influence has also been finalized;
- A modeling study on future deforestation has been finalized and a PDD developed;
- A REDD Project Design Document (PDD) has been formulated following the standards developed by the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) and the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS); and
- The validation process was carried out by AENOR, a Spanish VCS-CCB validation and verification company, and its' report emitted in September 2014, and the communities are now in a position to offer carbon credits on the voluntary market.

Output 3: Native communities have acquired management capacity for the production and marketing of timber, NTFPs and forest carbon.

100% of this output has been achieved, as follows:

- Workshops on community self-evaluation and reflection were carried out and each community established a consultative group conformed by 6 community members. Moreover, these groups actively participated in the community's forest management activities and in the elaboration and execution of the communal REDD strategies of the project;
- A training plan for enterprise management was elaborated with a view towards improving the marketing of the goods and services provided by the communal forests, and one communal business management committee was democratically established for the 7 communities;
- 7 timber business plans were developed, one for each community, and non-timber forest product business plans were further developed for 2 communities;
- 1 carbon credit business plan was developed and implemented for the 7 communities; and
- A Project Consultative committee, comprised of 6 public and private institutions has been established and has already met once to discuss project implementation.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The Executing Agency has produced a number of products, including several studies and technical documents which are available at http://www.itto.int/project_search. Among these, the following (in Spanish only) are worthwhile mentioning:

1. Estudio de Estratificación de los Bosques del Área del Proyecto.
2. Estimación del Carbono Almacenado en la Biomasa del Bosque de las Comunidades Nativas de Callería, Flor de Ucayali, Bueno Aires, Roya, Curiaca, Pueblo Nuevo del Caco y Puerto Nuevo.
3. Plan de campañas de sensibilización comunal sobre la importancia del bosque.
4. Plan de capacitación de recursos maderables y no maderables en 07 comunidades nativas de la región Ucayali.
5. Plan de Capacitación sobre REDD+.
6. Diagnostico Social Económico en Cinco Comunidades Shipibo – Conibo.
7. Diagnostico Social Económico en Dos Comunidades Cacataibo.
8. Línea base social para el proyecto REDD y evaluación de impactos
9. Marco lógico para la elaboración de la estrategia REDD del proyecto.
10. Plan de Capacitación en Gestión Empresarial.
11. Campañas de Sensibilización Comunal – Informe de Implementación.
12. Informe Técnico: Diseño de un proyecto REDD en comunidades nativas

Among other achievements and impacts, as reflected by the indicators mentioned in the project's REDDES Monitoring Protocol report, the following stand out:

- 142,247.5 hectares under sustainable forest management in 7 Shipibo Conibo indigenous communities in the Peruvian department of Ucayali (Sinchi Roca, Puerto Nuevo, Callería, Flor de Ucayali, Roya, Curiaca and Pueblo Nuevo). The communities implement these forest management actions in their community forest with a view towards reducing current deforestation and forest degradation.
- The 7 native communities to perceive additional revenues derived from a validated REDD Project Design Document (PDD) under the CCB, and Verified Carbon Standard, which encompasses 127,004.0 hectares
- The 7 native communities have developed a greater awareness of ecosystem services provided by their community forests.
- The 7 native communities has become skilled in the REDD, PES, sustainable forest management and forest restoration activities.
- 4 communities obtained Voluntary Forest Certifications from the FSC.

Rehabilitation and restoration of residual forests and arid savannah lands in the Akpé and Akama valleys

Project number:	RED-PD 031/11 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Togo	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 773,349
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 478,894
	Government of Togo	US\$ 294,455
Submitted by:	Government of Togo	
Implementing agency:	Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts	
Duration:	36 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 3 rd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project is the result of pre-project PPD 7/98 Rev. 2 (F) and simultaneously aims to implement the rehabilitation and restoration of residual forests and the conversion of arid savannah lands in the Akposso-Akébou landscape for timber production with the involvement of local communities in order to improve the socio-economic conditions of local communities.

It provides for the enrichment planting of natural forests (200 ha), agro-forestry lots (50 ha), gallery forests (50 ha) and the establishment of 300-ha new forest plantations. To secure the sustainability of this rehabilitation: i) a co-ordination mechanism will be established between stakeholders; ii) local communities will be effectively trained in participatory management; iii) and most of all, a management plan will be established and implemented by a management unit to be created.

Progress:

No progress report was submitted in August 2015 by the project Executing Agency (Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts / ODEF) which informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the completion report was under way, as all project activities have been completed in the field, as a contribution for the rehabilitation and restoration of residual forests and savannah lands in the Akpe and Akama Valleys, in Togo.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned should be documented with the completion report under preparation by the Executing Agency (Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts / ODEF) at the next Council.

Reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the Natchambonga and Djiyega community forests by promoting participatory forest management actions

Project number:	RED-SPD 092/12 Rev.1 (F)	
Project country:	Togo	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 290,377
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 149,904
	Government of Togo:	US\$ 140,473
Submitted by:	Government of Togo	
Implementing agency:	Water and Forest Authority	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	REDDES 4 th Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

The project aims to contribute to the restoration and rehabilitation of the Natchambonga and Djiyega forests to ensure the value-added development of environmental services and to improve the livelihoods of people in the savannah region of Togo. It will reduce unplanned deforestation and forest degradation for the benefit of local communities. Project activities aim to establish 50 ha of grazing pastures, 100 ha of fuel wood plantations; to redefine transhumance corridors (for seasonal movement) through stakeholders' consensus; to establish 10 reservoirs; to support forest protection; to improve charcoal production technology; to improve agricultural practices; to conduct extension work and raise awareness of regulations; to train stakeholders in SFM/SLM techniques; to train 50 stakeholders in GHG evaluation; and to train and equip local forest management committees.

Progress:

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of this small project was duly signed on 31 January 2013. An Inception Report and related Detailed Work Plan were submitted and approved by the ITTO Secretariat. The 24-month project implementation began with the disbursement of the first installment of TP funds on 10 April 2013. In accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project on-line monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: The land-use allocation process is improved through the rehabilitation of 150 ha of degraded forests

- 1.1: 46.5 ha out of 50 had been planted on the identified transhumance corridors with the following species: *Leucaena leucocephala*, *Peltophorum ferrugineum* and *Albizia lebbeck*. The aim was to provide grazing pastures for livestock farmers and transhumant herders in order to contribute to resolve the conflict among stakeholders caused by the destruction/degradation of forest land and food crops by cattle during the transhumance period.
- 1.2: 97 ha out of 100 had been planted with the following tree species: *Azadirachta indica*, *Senna siamea*, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, *Tamarindus indica*, *Vittelaria paradoxa*, *Parkia biglobosa* and *Khaya senegalensis*. The aim was to establish forest plantations for fuelwood production with the involvement of local communities.
- 1.3: Transhumance corridors had been demarcated and established through a consensus and participatory process involving relevant stakeholders.
- 1.4: 10 watering holes had been established near the sites selected for the establishment of nurseries for the production of forest seedlings in the following villages: Boumbouaka, Dapaong, Kountouare, Gniampoule and Bouldjoare. These watering holes had been supervised by local management committee established in each village.

Output 2: Natural resources are sustainably used by organizing farmers and charcoal producers, and

putting in place local committees

- 2.1: Fire prevention activities had been carried out by local communities with the surveillance groups established after being trained by project experts mobilized for that purpose.
- 2.2: Additional training workshops had been organized for the dissemination and extension of improved techniques for charcoal production in the target project area, at the request some local communities.

Output 3: Technical and managerial capacities are enhanced through capacity training on charcoal production techniques and on greenhouse gases (GHG) evaluation.

- 3.1: Continuation of training workshops and meetings conducted by the NGO called RAFIA for the extension and dissemination works aiming to raise awareness on the forest-related regulations at national and local levels.
- 3.2: Additional training activities had been carried out by the same NGO, RAFIA, on key aspects regarding the sustainable forest management (SFM) and sustainable landscape management (SLM) techniques.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

Capacity of local communities improved for their efficient involvement in the management of their forest resources and landscape, including savannas to be reforested or managed for pasture activities. The involvement of local communities in the implementation of activities is contributing to reduce/combat the forest and landscape degradation due to human activities (bush fire for slash and burn agriculture, charcoal and fuelwood, etc.).

CFME

Enabling customary landowners to participate effectively in CFM and REDD schemes within four pilot areas of PNG

Project number:	CFM-PPD 006/10 Rev.1 (F)		
Project country:	PNG		
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 156,040	
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 122,040	
	Government of PNG:	US\$ 34,000	
Submitted by:	Government of PNG		
Implementing agency:	PNG Forest Authority		
Duration:	9 months		
Financed at:	CFME 1 st Cycle (2010)		
Status:	Completed		

Summary:

The Pre-Project Proposal is a direct outcome of the “PNG Forestry and Climate Change Policy Framework for Action”, highlighting the need for engaging customary landowners at the local level and enhancing the capacity of government institutions at the national level. Forest communities in the four pilot areas are dependent upon forest products and services for subsistence and commercial purposes. The Pre-Project will enable the PNG Forest Authority to formulate a Full-Project Proposal to support CFM and REDD schemes in PNG through the establishment of a model platform for collecting and managing data and other information related to customary land ownership and forest quality. The Pre-Project will enable participating communities, the PNG Forest Authority and other stakeholders to systematically gather and consolidate forest and land tenure information using a single platform to jointly address the interrelated challenges of CFM and REDD.

Progress:

The pre-project agreement regulating the implementation of the pre-project was finalized in April 2011. The first installment of funds was delivered on 1 November 2012. The Executing Agency began the implementation of the pre-project activities in January 2013 and submitted the project completion report in February 2014. Since the Secretariat received an independent financial audit report in September 2015, the implementation of the pre-project is fully completed.

OUTPUT 1: Eight demonstration sites selected with customary landowners and local CFM/REDD partners in place

- Assessed 5 local partners and selected 3 using a partner assessment survey. Six partners have now been selected with a low-medium risk assessment
- Visited selected local partners to (i) collect any additional assessment information needed; and (ii) discuss selected sites and landownership mapping with reference to PRA guidelines and tools.
- Received landownership maps of selected sites from 2 local partners.

OUTPUT 2: Local forest resource assessment and land ownership mapping system is designed for customary landowners and CFEs

- Completed PRA guidelines and tools for local partners.
- Baseline data received from 2 local partners.

OUTPUT 3: An interactive online platform is designed for managing forest and land tenure data and facilitating collaboration between the PNGFA, forest communities, NGOs and investors

- Completed literature review with annotated biography of articles on 8 key topics and 127 publications. These were uploaded to the project "drop-box".
- Completed an organizational review with background information on 28 key organizations.
- Updated the CFM-REDD database of information on CFM-REDD partners.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The pre-project aimed to design a model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that supports CFM schemes within four pilot areas of PNG. The project management team first selected six local CFM partners from each region of Papua New Guinea with target landowner groups and demonstration areas in place. PRA tools were then used to collect a set of baseline data from selected sample sites within each demonstration area. The second round of data collection activities used web- and paper-based questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and organizational and literature reviews to identify objectives, requirements and options for: (i) resource assessment and land ownership mapping, and (ii) acquiring and utilising land ownership and forest resource data in PNG. The field research findings and recommendations have been incorporated into two technical reports.

Technical Report 1 provides an overall assessment of the project's social, economic and environmental baseline data, together with a detailed description of each selected sample area. The findings revealed a diverse project context - with similar strengths and weaknesses at the community level - in which local partners offer target landowners an important link with the outside world; opening up new opportunities for enhancing rural livelihoods. Technical Report 2 shows that assets such as technical capacity, land tenure and environmental data, equipment for recording information, software for analyzing data, and internet connectivity are relevant to the objectives of the project.

The PNG Forest Authority hosted a 3-day project planning workshop to finalize the framework for a full-project with reference to the technical report findings. Project partners and key stakeholders agreed that the full-project proposal was needed 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. Workshop participants also identified four outputs that will lead to the delivery of the project's specific objective. These include: Participatory data collection technology is improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; Clan groups are participating appropriately in the National Land Development Program; A data management system is engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and Policy and planning guidelines for CFM are in place.

The full proposal (PD 764/14 (F): Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes within 6 Pilots Areas of PNG) developed by the pre-project was rated Category 1 by the 45th Expert Panel.

The pre-project has confirmed that a CFM framework is needed that engages customary landowners at the local level, as well as enhances the capacity of government institutions at the national level. The full-project incorporates the lessons that were discussed during the pre-project, including:

- Climate change / REDD+ interventions involves complex, cross-sectoral issues which require multi-stakeholder inputs at all levels (from national to local)
- Governance issues should not be overlooked. In PNG, government processes are often fast-tracked and proper technical appraisal side-lined. Independent technical bodies are needed to guide the development of government policies and strategies.
- Policies, strategies, frameworks, programs and projects should (i) be based on a common foundation to ensure cost-effective, successful outcomes, (ii) focus on priority issues & cost-effective actions, (iii) tackle local level constraints, and involve departments responsible for empowering landowners (e.g. Department of Lands).
- In any REDD+ project, the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process is key. This process will ensure full participation of communities (thus landowners) at all stages of the project cycle. FPIC is an ongoing process that leads to (changing) outcomes all through.
- Need to compile existing lessons from the implementation of clan-based forest management / natural resource management initiatives in the country in order to facilitate the effective design and implementation of REDD+ policies and activities

TMT

Support for ANAFOR for optimum operation of the database management of *Pericopsis Elata* (Assamela) in Cameroon

Project number:	TMT-SPD 020/15 (M)		
Project country:	Cameroon		
Budget:	Total:	US\$	113,400
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$	113,400
Submitted by:	Government of Cameroon		
Implementing agency:	ANAFOR		
Duration:	10 months		
Financed at:	TMT 5 th Cycle (2015)		
Status:	Ongoing		

Summary:

The database (Dbase) on Assamela established as part of the ITTO/CITES Joint Regional Programme on monitoring of plant species listed in Appendix II has operated under sub-optimal conditions. Remote locations of production and/or processing sites, or energy deficit problems, use of one data formats by logging companies, among many others, are obvious constraints associated with any physical collection of production data to feed the Dbase, which prevent the efficient operation of this Dbase. This project has been developed in response to the identified challenges with the aim to ensure the proper operation of the Assamela Dbase by involving all stakeholders in the management of the species in Cameroon. The activities will allow ANAFOR to ensure harmonization of the data collection format for Assamela; to train managers of forest management units in logging companies, as well as the staff of the Forest and Customs Departments due to take over from ANAFOR the responsibility to conduct the regular collection of data at forest sites and shipping ports. The database management unit shall also be provided with equipment and technical resources to ensure the continuous monitoring of the collection system and updating of the species processing/recovery rate for the next two years.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 5th TMT Cycle (2015). The project agreement has been signed on 6 July 2015 and the project is ongoing.

Supporting SMEs and importers of tropical timber for better understanding of CITES and the need to comply with CITES rules in China

Project number:	TMT-SPD 023/15 Rev.1 (M)		
Project country:	China		
Budget:	Total:	US\$	246,800
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$	150,000
Submitted by:	Government of China		
Implementing agency:	Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information, Chinese Academy of Forestry (RIFPI/CAF)		
Duration:	18 months		
Financed at:	TMT 5 th Cycle (2015)		
Status:	Ongoing		

Summary:

Legality requirements and timber procurement policies are being introduced in many countries. These requirements and policies are principally aimed at addressing public concerns about the legal and environmental credentials of products. Many purchasers are demanding that products should come from sustainable, or at least legal, sources and that this be verifiable in order to maintain credibility with buyers in the market place.

These requirements and policies have significant implications for tropical timber importers and manufacturers. As developments are occurring at a rapid rate, there is an urgent need for tropical wood product importers and manufacturers to monitor these developments, assess the costs in meeting these requirements and explore the market implications and opportunities presented by these developments.

The project aims to raise the capacity of SMEs and importers of tropical timber in Yangtze River Delta to understand and prepare procurement strategies and business plans to take into account the development of CITES Appendices, with a view to improving market transparency and promoting the trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 5th TMT Cycle (2015). The project agreement has been signed on 18 August 2015 and the project is ongoing.

Establishment of a monitoring center for the industrial use of *P. Elata* in the Congo Republic

Project number:	TMT-SPD 021/15 Rev.1 (I)	
Project country:	Congo Republic	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 143,000
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 130,000
Submitted by:	Government of the Congo Republic	
Implementing agency:	National Centre for Forest and Wildlife Resources Inventory and Management (CNIAF)	
Duration:	12 months	
Financed at:	TMT 5 th Cycle (2015)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

This project aims to establish a monitoring center for *P. elata* industrial use in the Republic of Congo. The expected results are: (1) The flow of information on logging activities is designed, (2) The information data to be secured are identified, (3) the architecture of the information system is developed, (4) the data are collected and stored, (5) Users of the information system are trained. The monitoring center will focus on the harvesting and processing of *Afromosia* timber. It primarily aims to inform management and planning decisions as well as to meet the information needs of the scientific community. The system will be capable of securing and facilitating the monitoring of information related to the industrial use of the *Afromosia* species.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 5th TMT Cycle (2015). The project agreement has been signed on 29 June 2015 and the project is ongoing.

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

Project number:	TMT-SPD 010/12 Rev.1 (M)		
Project country:	France		
Budget:	Total:	US\$	273,789
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$	138,033
	CIRAD	US\$	135,756
Submitted by:	France		
Implementing agency:	CIRAD		
Duration:	24 months		
Financed at:	TMT 3 rd Cycle (2012)		
Status:	Ongoing		

Summary:

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

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

Progress:

The project agreement was signed in September 2013. The project implementation has started in October 2013 and the project is well on track in accordance with the work plan. The following activities have been carried out:

- Additional desk research and literature review
- Additional technology tests and scanning
 - Thermal diffusivity coefficient: Additional test campaign on 28 species (2 groups of wood, density between 0.30 and 0.42 on the one hand, and between 0.92 and 1.17 on the other); the results complemented those of the test campaign 2014
 - Wood Pictures: pictures of the new species to be included in the Atlas have been scanned
 - Additional technological features: about 95% of the tests undertaken to determine these data have been completed with some wood samples yet to be collected from partner laboratories and private operators.
- Collection of photographs of works or wood products: the collection takes more time because the species concerned are not marketed; the collection also needs to be accompanied by requests for authorization of use to stakeholders.
- Technical description for species to be added in Tropix and Atlas. 285 reviews (87%) about 328 planned have been drafted.
- Proofreading of technical descriptions of the Atlas internally (members of the technical and scientific project team and co-author of the Atlas) and externally (industrial partners and private operators involved in the tropical timber industry and players ATIBT), simultaneously with the

drafting of the last technical descriptions.

- Finalization of the Atlas manuscript for the printers: posting the new version of Tropix (Version 7.5) in spring 2015 (<http://tropix.cirad.fr/>); realization of the model under discussion with the editor, the QUAE (www.quae.com); prospect of simultaneous editing of an "e-pub" version.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The number of species described in the Atlas has been increased. Initially 290 species to be described in book to produce, this number was increased to 330 species because it was considered of major interest to cover a wider range tropical species involved in regular trade. The increase in the number of species described is worth to do though it will add the volume of work. Despite some delays, the project is well advanced and its implementation is satisfactorily. The project is expected to be completed in 2016 with the publication of the Atlas.

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

Project number:	TMT-SPD 012/12 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 149,996
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 111,931
	Ghana Timber Millers Organization:	US\$ 38,065
Submitted by:	Ghana	
Implementing agency:	Ghana Timber Millers Organization (GTMO)	
Duration:	24 months	
Financed at:	TMT 3 rd Cycle (2012)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

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

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

Progress:

The technical activities under this project have been completed and the Executing Agency in the process of preparing the completion report and final audit. Activities completed during the reporting period include:

- Translation of the Web content into French (Activity 1.3.2);
- Interviews with marketing staff (Activity 2.3.1);
- Data analysis and reporting (Activity 3.2.2): and
- Web design and hosting (Activity 3.4.2)

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The website for an online timber marketplace has been designed and developed. The design of African Timber Newsletter and social pages has been finalized. The online marketplace will promote trade and increase awareness of market information among traders in the region. The newsletter will convey relevant and timely information to actors in the marketplace. The marketing training will enhance the ability of companies to craft effective marketing strategies. The translation of the website into French has been completed as far as possible. The completion report is in preparation

Improving sustainable *Pericopsis elata* conservation and trade regulation in Ghana

Project number:	TMT-SPD 017/15 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Ghana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 186,611
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 149,997
Submitted by:	Government Ghana	
Implementing agency:	Nature and Development Foundation	
Duration:	18 months	
Financed at:	TMT 5 th Cycle (2015)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

This project is aimed at establishing the current conservation and trade status of *Pericopsis elata* in Ghana. This will be done through a habitat survey to assess the distribution and quantities of *Pericopsis elata* in Ghana and also ascertain the current market dynamics in its trade. The main objective of the project is to improve the availability of current data on the distribution, quantities and trade of *Pericopsis elata* in Ghana. The project will enable the FC to adopt the designed and tested tools and mechanisms to improve market regulation and put in effective interventions for its sustainable conservation. To guarantee sustainability of objectives and outcomes, the continuous support and guidance of NDF will be readily available to the FC and industry players.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 5th TMT Cycle (2015). The project agreement was signed on 27 July 2015 and the project is ongoing.

Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification system for all CITES-listed *Dalbergia* species and a feasibility study for *Diospyros* and look-alike species

Project number:	TMT-SPD 022/15 Rev.2 (M)	
Project country:	Global	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 220,000
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 200,000
Submitted by:	Collaborative Guatemala, Madagascar, Switzerland	
Implementing agency:	Plant Ecological Genetics (PEG), Institute of Integrative Biology (IBZ), ETH Zurich, Switzerland	
Duration:	13 months	
Financed at:	TMT 5 th Cycle (2015)	
Status:	Pending Agreement	

Summary:

With increasing international demand for precious tropical timber and the difficulties to prevent illegal logging, pressure on source countries is rising to ensure legal and sustainable timber trade. In order to help source countries with trade control, the parties of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) agreed on listing all *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros spp.* populations from Madagascar on Appendix II. The listing of these species is helping CITES authorities and other involved institutions to better control the trade of wood products derived from these precious timbers on the international market and is an important step towards a sustainable use of these species. Nonetheless, to enforce CITES regulations, reliable and fast identification techniques for logs and wood products are needed. The main objectives of the here proposed project are to 1) establish a fully documented reference sample collection for all *Dalbergia* species currently listed in CITES Appendix I-III and 2) to finalize identification systems that are being developed based on DNA analysis and wood anatomy for all *Dalbergia* species currently listed in CITES. Experience gained from *Dalbergia* will then be used to 3) assess the feasibility of developing an identification system for the species-rich ebony genus *Diospyros* and 4) to assess the feasibility of including look-alike species of both taxa. Reaching these goals will help Madagascar with the implementation of the Action plan for *Dalbergia* and *Diospyros* agreed at the CoP16.

Progress:

The project has been approved under the 5th TMT Cycle (2015) and is 'Pending Agreement'

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

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

Summary:

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

Progress:

Work has progressed on the redesign of the image of SIFGUA including the modernization of the logo and website and generation of a strategy to better promote the advantages and benefits of SIFGUA in Guatemala.

In terms of automation, SIFGUA now provides more interaction with the users. They can make real-time queries, generate specific reports and obtain strategic information in a simple way, supported by business intelligence to reduce impacts on production systems. The SIFGUA outreach strategy has been successfully implemented, allowing system users to know all benefits of the system, including aspects of sensitization of the general public population to engage them in control and reliability of sustainable forestry issues. In terms of sustainability the project has become self-sustained through revenues from the sale of notes, thus allowing proper system maintenance and ensuring continuation of the system independent from external funding.

Progress has been made in developing the design of application and tools for the Information System, incorporating information such as statistical databases, and linking the current systems of the National Forest Authority (INAB) and the National Authority for Protected Areas (CONAP). The incorporation of a systematic tool in SIFGUA has been completed. The official launch of the tool is planned for October or November 2015. User manuals and video tutorials have been developed. As the system continues to be updated and new services are added, manuals and tutorials have been updated several times. Under activity 2.5.1 a one-day capacity building workshop attended by 25 participants was organized in the use of SEINEF, in addition to regional workshops for incorporation of inputs for the SEGEFOR system. Workshops scheduled by the SIFGUA project, were covered with project support from TFL-PD 024/10 Rev. 2 (M) 'Strengthening of institutional capacities to improve law enforcement and forest governance in Guatemala'. The SIFGUA communication and awareness raising plan has been completed. The design of an electronic newsletter for statistical information has started and will be further discussed and analyzed in conjunction with the next meeting of the project Technical Committee.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

This project is working closely together with project TFL-PD 024/10 Rev.2 (M) 'Improvement of forest law enforcement at the national level to promote forest governance in Guatemala' and has been able to achieve substantial results. The implementation of Electronic Information System for Forest Enterprises, SEINEF has allowed the National Forest Institute to have positive impacts on the regulation and control of trade in forest products. Since the adoption of SEINEF, the registration of legally established companies has increased by 70% from 1,230 to 2,043 active companies. Of those 2,043 companies, 1,608 are already using the system, representing almost 80% of companies active in the INAB. By the end of 2014 sales of 88.453 bills of transport of forest products were registered, each costing about US\$ 1 (8 quetzales) and thereby generating US\$ 88.453 in additional INAB revenues budget revenue. This revenue allows the system to be self-sustained. The concept of SIFGUA providing an automated process of forestry activities has not only provided a tool to regulatory control institutions (CONAP and INAB) but the objective is also to reduce service times for users, and to eliminate repetitive steps and processes thereby making the procedure faster and more efficient. The new SIFGUA image is presenting the system in a way that allows to reach more users and positions SIFGUA at the national and international level as of reference for information on forestry

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

Project number:	TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M)	
Project country:	Guyana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 420,820
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 320,920
	Government of Guyana	US\$ 99,900
Submitted by:	Government of Guyana	
Implementing agency:	Guyana Forestry Commission	
Duration:	18 months	
Financed at:	TMT 2 nd Cycle (2011)	
Status:	Completed	

Summary:

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

Progress:

The completion report, technical reports and the final audit report have been received. The following activities have been carried out:

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

- Preparation of the framework for the integrated information system
- Draft report on the review of market framework for trade development in Guyana

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

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

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

The forestry sector of Guyana now has an integrated market information system in place with more detailed reporting capabilities on prices, market demand, export trends, and quality requirements for different regions, which can enhance forecasting in prices levels and demand; and provide a more integrated reporting on the wood products supply chain.

There is now better planning and allocation of state forest resources; more strategic marketing efforts in pursuit of expansion of key markets for added value products; macro-economic benefits through improved planning and strategic decision in relation to employment, and increased export earnings. Several strategic areas of the sector: marketing, forest management and planning, and resources allocation, have been receiving positive impact from this project activities.

Enhancing the Sustainable Management and Commercial Utilisation of the CITES-listed Species *Cedrela odorata* (red cedar) in Guyana

Project number:	TMT-SPD 014/13 Rev.1 (M)	
Project country:	Guyana	
Budget:	Total:	US\$ 239,765
	ITTO Contribution:	US\$ 136,640
	Government of Guyana	US\$ 103,125
Submitted by:	Government of Guyana	
Implementing agency:	Guyana Forestry Commission, GFC	
Duration:	18 months	
Financed at:	TMT 4 th Cycle (2013)	
Status:	Ongoing	

Summary:

This project builds on Guyana's efforts to develop and promote its lesser used species, as part of a multi-pronged strategy for managing the country's commercial forest estate sustainably. Specifically, the project will focus on the assessment, development, marketing and promotion of *Cedrela odorata* (locally known as red cedar). Historically, Red Cedar has been a valuable timber, with a natural range covering Latin America, the Caribbean and South America. Over-harvesting in some range countries in the region has meant that the species is now considered to be vulnerable according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It is also listed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix III for the countries of Brazil, Bolivia, Columbia, Guatemala, and Peru. In Guyana, the species has not been used commercially to the same extent as in other range countries. This project will enable Guyana to undertake an assessment of its commercial forests to determine the status of the species. The outputs from the resource assessment will be used to develop a management plan for the sustainable harvesting of red cedar, as well as develop the capacity of the industry to harvest, develop and market the species domestically and internationally; consistent with the objectives of CITES Appendix III listing. Among the main expected outcomes of the project are completion of a resource assessment of red cedar in Guyana's commercial estate to establish the status of the species; informing a decision on the status of conservation and/or utilization of red cedar; development of capacity in Guyana for managing red cedar; development of a strategy for developing and commercializing CITES-listed species in Guyana including statistical database; and developing markets for red cedar both locally and internationally in areas of added value products.

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

Progress:

A consultant was hired and initialized the process of conducting an assessment of Red Cedar in Guyana gathering information from GFC database and historical information available. Information/data is being gathered in relation to the project deliverables. The review of the technical literature available on Red Cedar was completed. General information on distribution, cover, density, size structure, regeneration dynamics and timber characteristics and uses of Red Cedar can be gathered from literature. Discussions with a number of stakeholders from both within the GFC and the timber industry revealed that Red Cedar is considered to occur at low density; being estimated at less than 1 tree per 50 ha. The species is also considered not to occur in aggregate stands (clumps) such as for instance greenheart, wallaba, mora and morabukea. In terms of site preference, it is suggested by some operators that the species seems to prefer marsh or mora forest. Due to the low density (numbers per ha) of its occurrence and uncertainty about site preferences, it was decided to first explore existing resource assessment data. The first draft of the Reference Assessment and Forest Management Plan for the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela Odorata* (Red Cedar) In Guyana was completed. The Management Plan for the Red Cedar was elaborated. In order to develop a protocol framework for international trade of Red Cedar, CITES Appendix III listing requirements

were examined. Additionally, a review of CITES and protocols was completed. Discussions have also started on the Protocols for International Trade relating to CITES and Red Cedar. Furthermore the process of collating market information was advanced and the data is currently being analyzed. Production and export statistics for Red Cedar were provided by PDD for the period 2006-2010. Field visits included to following sawmills/exporters: Barama Co. Ltd., Cummings Wood Products, L.S. Harridat Sawmill, Bholas Sawmill and S & M Bission Sawmiller. The latter two sawmillers have their own concessions. Cummings Wood Products and L.S. Harridat Sawmill procure Red Cedar from various sources, many of those Amerindian communities.

Achievements, impacts and lessons learned:

The work under this project has progressed significantly with the completion of the first draft of the Resource Assessment and Forest Management Plan for the CITES-Listed Species *Cedrela Odorata* (Red Cedar) in Guyana. The report provides an overview of the population size, distribution, stand density, size structure, regeneration dynamics and possible strategy for the sustainable management of the timber species *Cedrela odorata* L. in Guyana. In Guyana the species is known under the common name Red Cedar. Additionally, the Report also gives an Overview of the application of CITES rules regarding export of Red Cedar that explains the permitting process among other areas. The Report also covers the characteristics of Red Cedar, summarizes the geographic distribution based on the findings of the Resource Assessment, and the uses, population trends of the species. Further, the Report also includes an outline of other aspects of the Resource Assessment that relates to the density and size classes, the volume and the regeneration dynamics for SFM levels of Red Cedar. This aspect relates directly to the Management Plan for the species.

ANNEX II

**TAKING STOCK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
TFLET AND REDDES THEMATIC PROGRAMMES**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES OF THE ITTO THEMATIC PROGRAMMES ON
REDUCING DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION AND ENHANCING
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (REDDES) AND FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT, GOVERNANCE
AND TRADE (TFLET)**

Executive Summary

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9 June 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report is a response to a need for assessing progress in the implementation of ITTO's two Thematic Programmes (TP) that have received significant funding to date: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET), and Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES) as part of knowledge management of the organization. The purpose of the report is to provide a synthesis of the aggregated achievements of the completed pre-projects and projects and their lessons learned. During the assessment, the scope was expanded to cover also the projects that are being implemented.

The stocktaking assessment is based on documentary review of pre-projects and projects (20 in TFLET and 29 in REDDES) for which a methodology was developed covering the scope and achievements of the programmes. In addition, lessons learned were synthesized, complementarities with related international initiatives were identified, and issues related to programme design, procedures, management and financing were reviewed.

ASSESSMENT OF TFLET

Programme objectives

In general, the projects cover well the first three programme objectives. Ninety percent of the projects targeted capacity building of community and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to demonstrate that the timber traded comes from legal sources as a focus area or provided a substantial contribution towards this objective. Strengthening forest law compliance and governance was targeted by 85 percent of the projects. About two thirds made a contribution – mostly significant – to improved transparency and effective management of supply chains as well as increased domestic and international trade in legally produced timber. However, the fourth programmatic objective, i.e., improved international cooperation in forest law enforcement and governance, was a focus area only in a fifth of projects.

Thematic focus

Most projects focus on institutional strengthening of forest law compliance and governance, and capacity building but also improving market transparency is substantially covered. Development of tracking systems as well as certification of forest management and chain-of-custody are targeted in half of the projects. Promotion of policy dialogue and exchange of experience on international and domestic market requirements is also an element of several projects.

However, there are some areas that are considered gaps or weakly covered, notably development of national public procurement policies, cross-border cooperation in trade from legal and sustainable sources and other international cooperation. Addressing these gaps would require proactive measures from the programme side.

Level of implementation

More than half of projects are implemented at a national level and 15 percent at a local, community or enterprise level, the rest being regional or international. National projects often include local level pilot projects.

Target groups

About two thirds of projects funded under both programmes have forest communities, indigenous groups or SMEs as main beneficiary target groups. Government agencies are also among major beneficiaries, which is logical because of TFLET's emphasis on strengthening of governance. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been identified as direct or indirect targets in 90 percent of the projects. There is usually more than one principal target group in TFLET projects.

Executing Agencies and partnerships

Government agencies are the largest group among Executing Agencies (45 percent of projects). CSOs have been EA in 15 percent of TFLET projects and knowledge institutions in 25 percent. Partnerships are common in the programme. CSOs and various government agencies are partners in more than half of the cases. Partnering with local communities is common in pilot projects on local level.

Expected benefits

Pre-project and projects are strongly oriented towards generation of economic benefits for achieving poverty reduction. Most (85%) also target at environmental and social benefits but in only about half of the cases these are expected to be significant. Together with social benefits, revenue generation can ensure effective forest conservation and commitment of forest communities to improved law compliance and eradication of illegal logging. Almost half of the TFLET projects are also aimed at environmental benefits as a result of strengthened governance and improved law compliance.

Applicability and replicability

In general, the completed TFLET projects could be applicable in similar conditions elsewhere. Thirty percent of the projects were considered applicable at a national level and twenty percent at a regional or international level. Thirty percent were considered applicable at all levels. A third of projects were considered replicable in similar conditions but modifications would be required in the other cases.

Innovation content

A tenth of the projects developed a new innovation and the rest were applying adapted new technology or existing technology in new application and conditions. Technology was interpreted in the assessment broadly including new ways of working and organizing stakeholders.

Expected sustainability

In half of TFLET projects expected sustainability was assessed strongly likely, in another 30 percent somewhat likely and in the remaining fifth sustainable only with continuous financing. However, a follow-up project was typically considered necessary but in many cases mainstreaming of project results would also require policy revision. The main reasons for follow-up action needs are common difficulties related to implementing policy reforms and mainstreaming new innovations developed in pilot projects that tend to take time extending beyond the project duration.

TFLET achievements

The programme has made a strong progress towards all its specific objectives that appear relevant to country conditions. In particular, the support to communities and, to a somewhat lesser extent, to SMEs has been well covered but it would often need to be defined how their local level engagement in legal and sustainable supply chains could be mainstreamed.

About 80 percent of the target values of the Monitoring Protocol (MP) have been achieved in strengthening of forest law compliance and governance through national policy and legal frameworks, strengthened enforcement and other institutions, effective partnerships and improved cooperation among stakeholders.

Increased volumes of traded tropical timber and timber products have been targeted by eleven TFLET projects in nine countries. A large number of partnerships in 16 countries have been established surpassing the target value (5). Less progress has been made in development of public procurement policies and codes of conduct for the industry.

Community and SME capacity to demonstrate that timber produced and traded comes from legal sources contributing to sustainable development (the fourth objective) has been improved in six countries through 13 projects surpassing the target values. Training courses on law compliance and enforcement have been implemented in seven countries through 13 projects.

Under improved international cooperation in forest law enforcement and governance, fourteen ITTO producing member countries are implementing the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) or are in the process of negotiation. TFLET projects have provided substantial support to these processes in three countries and projects will soon be started in two more countries. In addition, TFLET has built up capacity in six more countries to facilitate their future engagement in international and regional processes. However, no progress can be reported on improvement of trans-boundary timber control processes.

Lessons learned

The completed pre-projects and projects have generated a wealth of lessons learned which cover subjects the following subjects: (i) awareness raising on strengthening forest governance, (ii) building human resource capacity in law enforcement, (iii) developing and implementing timber tracking systems, (iv) mainstreaming innovations, (v) engaging SMEs in legal compliance, (vi) training, (vii) partnerships, (viii) inter-agency coordination and cooperation, (ix) knowledge sharing, and (x) sustainability of project impacts.

The key lessons suggest that governance reforms can only be driven by government-led initiatives, not from outside. Strengthening of law enforcement requires much more than training of enforcement officers which is also needed. Awareness raising and provision of information on benefits arising from improved law compliance to communities and SMEs is necessary for which a cadre of local trainers and extension workers is required. Piloting on a sufficient large scale in representative conditions involving all stakeholders has proved to be a good approach for choosing between options for institutional arrangements and timber tracking technologies.

ASSESSMENT OF REDDES

Programme objectives

In general, the REDDES projects cover well the first four specific programme objectives, i.e., reduction of unplanned deforestation (objective a), that of forest degradation (b), climate change mitigation and other environmental services (c), and contribution to the social and economic sustainability (d). The fifth objective (e) adaptation and resilience of tropical forests had the weakest coverage of in the projects reviewed.

Thematic focus

Almost two thirds of the projects cover assessment and diagnosis of deforestation and forest degradation, and establishment of enabling conditions and capacity building. Pilot and demonstration activities are also frequent elements, together with policy development. Specific focus areas of the programme are capacity building for REDD+ and payments for environmental systems (PES).

Level of implementation

About 40 per cent of the projects are implemented at the level of community/enterprise or other local economic unit, one third are national and one fifth international. However, most projects are implemented at more than one level.

Target groups

About two thirds of REDDES projects have identified forest communities, indigenous groups or SMEs as main beneficiaries. Forest owners and government agencies are also important target groups. CSOs are typically identified as minor beneficiaries. The private sector is less frequently targeted.

Executing Agencies and partnerships

Government agencies are the largest group among EAs (34 percent of the projects) followed by knowledge institutions and CSOs. Partnerships are common in the work under REDDES (only 15 percent had no partners). This has also resulted in complementary financing, particularly by other government bodies. Partnering with local communities has been part of almost all the projects.

Expected benefits

In about 80 percent of the projects, expected benefits cover both economic, social and environmental aspects. Environmental benefits are in most cases related to forest carbon but they often also covered biodiversity and water (the latter usually implicitly). The result illustrates a common approach to address all the three pillars of sustainability.

Applicability and replicability

The completed projects were mostly found applicable in similar local conditions or at national level (45 and 18 percent, respectively) and the rest at a regional or international level. The degree of replicability was also high.

Innovation content

The innovation content in REDDES is important as a third of the projects involve development and application of a new technology and a quarter used adapted new technology, in particular in forest inventory and monitoring, and development of PES systems. The rest applied existing new technology in new applications or conditions.

Expected sustainability

One third of the pre-projects and projects appeared to have strong likelihood for sustainability, another third some likelihood, and the last third sustainable only with continuous financing. However, a follow-up project was considered necessary in 45 percent of the projects as mainstreaming of project results (e.g., PES schemes) would require policy adjustment.

REDDES achievements

The programme has significantly contributed to progress towards all its specific objectives. In particular, support to communities and payments for environmental services have been well covered. The review shows that most of the sixteen outputs identified in the Monitoring Protocol are more than achieved or in process by the project portfolio.

In *avoided deforestation, restoration or conservation* the main focus area is to increase the area under SFM through 19 projects in 16 countries (MP target 6 countries). One third of the projects develop forest monitoring contributing to quantification of carbon stocks in 12 countries (target 2). A quarter work on demonstration in restoration of degraded forests.

Two thirds of the projects in 10 countries aim at *income generation based on forest related environmental services and other forest outputs by local communities*. This demonstrates the fact that local income generation is a precondition for effective forest conservation. *Increased women participation* is a specific target in seven projects but other community forest related projects supporting income generation also benefit women albeit not explicitly stated.

Capacity building to implement policy reforms work has been carried out or is in process through different modalities in six projects in five countries. Fifteen countries have benefited from *capacity building to implement SFM, forest restoration and rehabilitation* through various training outputs with about 2,900 participants (target 300).

Development of PES incentive mechanisms have been part of 13 REDDES projects in 11 countries (target 3) demonstrating a stronger demand for support in this area than expected. *Demonstration areas* were established or are in the process in 17 projects in 11 countries (target 3). Communities are directly involved in the development of PES mechanisms in 15 projects in 10 countries.

There are two strategic issues that would merit rethinking on how they should be addressed in the REDDES strategy, i.e., adaptation and landscape restoration linked with restoration and rehabilitation. Establishment of permanent forest estate and strengthening of tenure and user rights may also need more attention in the future. Proactive measures are probably needed by ITTO to fill these and some other gaps (e.g. the development of national C&I for SFM).

Lessons learned

The lessons learned from the completed pre-projects and projects are summarized under the following subject areas: (i) development of mechanisms for payment for environmental services, (ii) advancing REDD+ implementation through REDDES, (iii) stakeholder participation, (iv) implementing the landscape approach, (v) poverty reduction and improvement of food security, (vi) field level demonstration, (vii) private sector participation in reduction of deforestation and forest degradation, (viii) governance, (ix) training, (x) dissemination of knowledge, (xi) mainstreaming of results, and (xii) ensuring sustainability. Selected project examples have been identified on strengths and weaknesses of past experience.

A key lesson is that SFM is an important option to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation provided that a set of preconditions are met related to availability of information, institutional support and provision of incentives. There is a close relationship between conservation and development; i.e. realizing sustained biodiversity conservation requires sustained community development, including in terms of economic benefits.

Project strategies could benefit from three parallel interventions, i.e. strengthening of the institutional and community capacity, conservation and restoration of tropical forests for REDD+ and other environmental services, and improvement of local livelihoods.

COMMON ASPECTS ON DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTPUTS OF BOTH PROGRAMMES

Programme design

While the Thematic Programme Documents (TPDs) have provided an appropriate framework for implementation during the first seven years, they would benefit from updating in order to take into account recent international developments, actual demand for, and supply of, funding, and lessons learned. Some specific objectives are general by nature not providing a clear strategic focus while taking into account linkages with other programmes. There is even more need for revising the Monitoring Protocols to make them more applicable for setting targets and measuring progress. Some identified outputs are more outcomes than outputs, some are defined in unnecessary detail, and many of them overlap with each other.

Problem analysis

The programme level problem analyses in the TPDs have provided a largely relevant framework for project design. However, they have limitations as there is a wide variation in national and local conditions. In TFLET proponents tend to exclude from problem analyses politically sensitive elements such as silent acceptability of illegalities, corruption, distorted incentives and trans-boundary trafficking of timber and timber products. In REDDES forest and land tenure has only fairly rarely been duly covered in project level problem analysis.

Risk analysis

In spite of having a number of good examples, risk analysis appears to be a somewhat problematic area in project design. It often appears superficial and therefore pre-identification of mitigation measures is also weak. One third of the REDDES projects did not include a risk analysis at all.

Quality of implementation and outputs

In general, the performance of Executing Agencies appears good or satisfactory but in a few projects problems were identified with partners. The overall quality of project documentation and technical reports can be considered good with a good number of outstanding reports. Unfortunately, a few weaker technical documents were also encountered. However, a typical problem is that policy proposals and other recommendations have often been made without due consideration of their practical consequences and financial requirements. The quality of implementation depends on supervision and guidance from the EA management as well as on quality of monitoring and advice from the Secretariat. External assistance has been drawn on when adequate local competence was not available, but not always.

PROGRAMMATIC LINKAGES AND COMPLEMENTARITIES

Linkages between Thematic Programmes

TFLET and REDDES have clearly differentiated objectives. However, both programmes share the common objective to improve the wellbeing of local communities through sustainable management of their forest resources. Good governance is fundamental to provide enabling conditions and promotion of SFM is a strategic element in both programmes that focus on forest dependent communities as an ultimate target group. These linkages offer opportunities for further harnessing synergies

TFLET and the Trade and Market Transparency (TMT) Thematic Programme are mutually supportive. They share similar objectives in improving market transparency and increasing production and trade. TMT complements TFLET in improving market transparency and building up capacity among SMEs to realize the benefits from legal compliance and implementation of SFM. TFLET has also a close linkage with the ITTO/CITES Programme.

Both REDDES and the Community Forest Management and Enterprise (CFME) TP share the same general objective to contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of forest-dependent communities even though their strategies are different, CFME focusing on SFM and promoting added value production. Complementarity also derives from the fact that conservation efforts have best chances to succeed if they can result in net economic benefits for local communities and indigenous groups.

Regular cycle projects and Thematic Programmes

A large number of regular cycle projects approved since 2008 directly or indirectly contributed to REDDES and TFLET objectives and could have been funded through these thematic programmes, had there been funds available. In the case of TFLET-related pre-projects/projects, the regular cycle has contributed USD 20.9 million or 1.7 times more funding than TFLET. The REDDES-related regular pre-projects/projects received a total funding of USD 35.3 million or 3.7 times more than the TP itself. Therefore, the stocktaking carried out provides only a partial view of ITTO's work towards the TP objectives.

Complementarities between TFLET and other international initiatives

Several international, regional and bilateral initiatives have objectives related to strengthening of forest governance and law enforcement either as the main focus area or part of their objectives. The EU-FAO FLEGT Programme is particularly comparable to TFLET. While the two programmes share similar general objectives, there are differences in their specific objectives. EU-FAO FLEGT focuses on promotion of the EU FLEGT principles and VPAs while TFLET is broader. In practice, there are close linkages and some overlaps. Synergies have not, however, been operationally harnessed. This is partly due to the demand driven *modus operandi* in both initiatives (call for proposals). Procedures are somewhat different and also the donor bases are different as the EU-FAO FLEGT is completely financed by the European Union which has not participated in TFLET funding.

Complementarities between REDDES and other international initiatives

Two international programmes were analyzed in relation to REDDES: the UN-REDD Programme and the Readiness Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF). The general objectives of the three are common and they sustainable management of forests, enhanced stakeholder participation, capacity building, and national planning for low carbon sustainable development with forest related interventions. Thematically, REDDES has the broadest approach and its focus is on practical implementation through demonstration and pilot projects implemented by communities, the private sector and other stakeholders.

REDDES applies a demand driven approach and it does not require compliance with pre-determined phases which have taken long periods to implement. Therefore, it does not suffer from delays in disbursement and its transaction costs are low. However, these competitive advantages are undermined by limited financial resources (not encountered in the other two international programmes). This has led to a situation in which REDDES projects have often been delinked from the other REDD+ programmes, partly due to the lack of interest by others in cooperation and perhaps lack of sufficient initiative from the ITTO side.

PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCING

Strengthening of the programmatic approach

The Programme Documents were elaborated with the intention to provide a strategic response to priority issues in different country situations, to offer all stakeholders an equal opportunity to participate, and to promote innovation. However, there is a perception among donors and some other stakeholders that TFLET and REDDES are still just a collection of individual projects, albeit within a common framework. The programmes will have to become more programmatic if there is a clear perspective that adequate regular funding will be forthcoming.

Building on the results of the 2013 effectiveness assessment and this stocktaking, six non-exclusive options for improving the programmatic approach are identified:

- I. Introducing the modality of targeted calls for proposals to address gaps and priorities; such calls can be targeted at specific thematic area or geographic region or sub-region.
- II. New thematic sub-programmes for selected priority themes of common interest to members could be set up drawing on the experience of the ITTO-CITES Programme.
- III. Improving the programmatic approach at country level through (a) development of national plans for implementing a Thematic Programme; (b) reactivation of the country level diagnostic studies that were carried out in the past; and (c) implementation of the pilot country approach provided in the REDDES programme document.
- IV. Improving the programmatic approach on international and regional/sub-regional levels through ITTO's proactive role to initiate and implement necessary activities such as analytical work on policy instruments and financing mechanisms, development of training packages and validated, broadly applicable technologies, information sharing, and regional and cross-country cooperation.
- V. Improving the programmatic approach thematically through other ITTO instruments (Strategic Action Plan, Biennial Work Programmes and the regular cycle project work) to more transparency and strengthened functional links.
- VI. Harnessing synergies with other relevant initiatives (particularly UN-REDD, FCPF, and EU-FAO FLEGT Programme) through improved communication and promotion of mutual engagement in the implementation of each other's activities.

Improving the quality of proposals

Addressing weaknesses in proposal quality needs a more proactive approach than in the past, as there are earmarked resources available for this purpose in the TPs. Three options are proposed for consideration to improve the situation provided that there is a perspective of expanded funding for TPs: (a) carry out consultations with new members and other priority countries on the need/possibility of support for country level diagnostic studies, national action plan preparation and project formulation; (b) support finalization of weak proposals with potential in terms of innovation, broad applicability and replication, and knowledge sharing; and (c) continue strengthening the pool of qualified project formulation and implementation specialists in ITTO producing member countries.

Management of TPs as programmes

TP projects are managed and monitored like regular cycle projects rather than as a pool of thematically linked activities. There should be more clarity on technical management responsibility and the only logical option would be to assign it to the Assistant Director of each division as long as the programmes do not become so large that recruitment of a designated Programme Manager becomes justified. Technical management responsibilities could be partly delegated to Project Managers.

ITTO has presently two almost identical processes for project appraisal which work independently from each other, one involving Thematic Programme Advisory Committees (TPAC) for TPs and the other involving the Expert Panel on Project Appraisal for the regular project cycle. These procedures could be harmonized considering the experience gained in the thematic programmes.

Simplification of programme procedures

Although the innovative TP procedures are faster and represent lower transaction costs than in the case of regular cycle projects, they could be improved. Parts of the project formulation requirements are excessively complex and could be simplified. The ITTO/CITES Programme experience offers a number of lessons for TP implementation.

Improving knowledge management

In view of the broad applicability of lessons learned and knowledge products developed under the two TPs, their effective sharing is critical for capitalizing the investment made by ITTO and its donors. Considerable effort has already been made to disseminate the results of the two TPs through a broad range of tools, including the recent *Project search* facility in the ITTO website.

Knowledge sharing is a crosscutting activity and mostly related to thematic issues, are lessons learned generated through TPs or the regular project cycle. Separating the two would be a sign of working in silos, which should be avoided.

Funding of thematic programmes

None of the TPs has received full regular funding and no pledges have been received since 2013. Inadequate resources have become the most serious obstacle for effective implementation of TFLET and REDDES.

Donors cannot earmark their funding within TPs, which has apparently negatively influenced the interest of some of them in using this instrument. However, TPs were introduced upon donor initiatives to have a more strategic approach to the organization's project work and to respond to a common wish to move towards unearmarked funding. This worked during the pilot phase but has faded out since then.

Nevertheless, even with the limited funding available, the pre-projects, projects and activities of the two TPs reviewed have enabled substantial achievement in terms of the intended outputs. In case new funding cannot be mobilized, implementation of the two TPs will end when all the on-going projects have been completed. This report has tried to generate information and identify a series of measures to avoid this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Update the programme design

- 1.1 The Programme Documents and the Monitoring Protocols should be revised together with procedures and other guidance for implementation to achieve increased responsiveness and agility, together with reduced transaction costs.
- 1.2 The theory of change should be clarified in the TPDs. A well-articulated theory of change would help improve the programmes' strategy as well as communication to donors, potential partners and other stakeholders.
- 1.3 Proper guidance should be provided for how project outputs should be reported in monitoring and completion reports as the present practice is inadequate not resulting in systematic compilation of comprehensive information on outputs and achievements at the programme level.

2. Strengthen the programmatic approach

- 2.1 A modality for targeted thematic and geographic calls for proposals should be introduced in order to facilitate resource mobilization.
- 2.2 Drawing on the experience of the ITTO-CITES Programme, the concept of thematic sub-programmes should be considered in order to provide strategic response to emerging priority issues. In this context, counterpart agencies in producing member countries should be identified and their role could be formalized in TP implementation, in view of the limited capacity of national Focal Points to assist in thematic areas that may not fall under the mandate of their own agencies.
- 2.3 The identified proactive measures should be taken to improve programme-level impacts at country, regional and international levels, as appropriate.
- 2.4 The thematic links between the TPs, SAP and BWPs as well as the regular cycle project work should be strengthened and considered in monitoring and evaluation.

3. *Harness synergies with other international initiatives*

- 3.1 Complementarities between ITTO's Thematic Programmes and related international initiatives should be effectively communicated emphasizing the TP value added to potential partners as such information is critical also for the main donors.
- 3.2 As there are apparent synergies between TFLET and the EU-FAO FLEGT Programme, possibilities for cooperation and coordination should be jointly explored by FAO and ITTO, in consultation with the EU, in order to leverage impacts of the two initiatives.
- 3.3 ITTO should regularly participate in the FCPF/UN-REDD Policy Board meetings and present the REDDES projects and programmes to enhance cooperation and generate new ideas for joint actions.
- 3.4 Related agencies such as FAO, UN-REDD, FCPF and others should be re-invited to participate in TPACs (if these continue to operate) provided that adequate regular funding for implementation can be mobilized.

4. *Strengthen the programme management*

- 4.1 Proactive measures should be taken to assist (a) priority countries with no or limited past support, and (b) project proponents in finalizing their weak proposals with potential for innovation, broad applicability/replication, and knowledge sharing.
- 4.2 Technical management responsibility of the thematic programmes should be assigned to appropriate Assistant Directors as long as the programmes do not become so large that recruitment of a designated Programme Manager becomes justified. Assistant Directors should be responsible for overall TP supervision and implementation having an oversight role in order to ensure that (i) priorities and gaps in implementation are addressed, (ii) knowledge sharing is effective, (iii) necessary participation of programme management in fundraising is assured, and (iv) linkages between TPs, the regular project cycle, and BWP activities are harnessed.
- 4.3 The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer should continue to be responsible for the administrative TP coordination and management of the call for proposals. Her/his role could be expanded to other tasks related to TP implementation, including generation of information for programme-level monitoring.
- 4.4 Specific responsibilities should be assigned to Regional Officers to improve coordination and promotion of TP activities in their regions, to be implemented in cooperation with Project Managers responsible for TP projects.

5. *Improve the project cycle*

- 5.1 The requirements for project proposals, their approval criteria and programme procedures should be simplified.
- 5.2 TPACs and the Expert Panel on Project Appraisal should be merged, which would contribute to (i) better integration of the TPs and regular cycle projects, (ii) improved allocation of limited resources to priority projects, (iii) improved quality and reduced costs of appraisal work, and (iv) reduced Secretariat workload.

6. *Improve knowledge management*

- 6.1 In carrying out thematic evaluations, groups of relevant projects should be selected from both the TPs and regular cycle projects, as appropriate, to maximize generation of information on lessons learned and to optimize costs.

7. *Mobilize resources*

- 7.1 Measures should be taken to actively communicate on the value added and achievements of the ITTO Thematic Programmes to the donor community and other relevant stakeholders.