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

Fiftieth Meeting

27 – 31 July 2015, Yokohama, Japan

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

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1.1 The Expert Panel (ITTC/EP-50) worked in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached, see **Appendix I**. Furthermore it has been guided by the endorsement of the Council at its 40th Session of Document ITTC (XL)/5 and, in particular the authorization contained in paragraph 7, to apply the "Revised ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals". The Fiftieth Panel appraised the proposals and classified them according to categories listed in **Appendix II** applying the current consolidated version of the scoring system summarized in **Appendix V** and **Appendix VI**.

2. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The Fiftieth Expert Panel was attended by members listed in **Appendix IV**. Ms. Marjukka Mähönen (Finland) chaired the meeting.

3. APPRAISAL PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

- 3.1 The procedures, aspects and guidelines applied by the Panel to appraise Project and Pre-project Proposals are laid down in the Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of ITTO Project Proposals (**Appendix I**).
- 3.2 In accordance with past practice, each Project or Pre-project Proposal was introduced by two Panel members (one from a Consumer country and one from a Producer country). After that the Panel held an open discussion and finally concluded its assessment by taking a consensus decision on the category of each Project or Pre-project in accordance with terms contained in **Appendix II**. Furthermore, it applied the criteria for assessment contained in the third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. In cases where proposals were submitted to the Panel as revised Project or Pre-project (Rev.1 or Rev.2), the Panel first referred to the overall and specific recommendations made by the earlier Panel(s) to assess if these recommendations had been adequately addressed.
- 3.3 In cases where a Project or Pre-project Proposal was submitted to the Panel that had already been subject to two revisions by prior Panel sessions (Rev.2 documents) the Panel had to follow Council's Decision 3(XXXVII) that projects may only be assessed three times and that such Rev.2 projects would either have to (a) qualify by obtaining category 1 (to be commended to the Committee); or (b) in case it does not qualify for a category 1, it could not be commended to the Committee.

4. APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT

- 4.1 Thirty-three (33) projects and two (2) pre-projects (total of 35) proposals were received for appraisal by the Fiftieth Expert Panel. The overall list of 35 Project/Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the Expert Panel and the category of decision allocated to each proposal is presented in **Appendix III**. The procedures and criteria applied for the assessment have been specified above in section 3.
- 4.2 The ITTO Secretariat allocated the Project and Pre-project Proposals in three blocks so that the Panel could deal with all proposals related to Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM) (21) then with those related to Economics, Statistics and Markets (ESM) (10) and finally with those related to Forest Industry (I) (4). This arrangement facilitated the appraisal as well as the formulation of the overall assessment and specific recommendations for each proposal listed in **Annex** of this report.
- 4.3 The assistance provided by the ITTO Secretariat in addressing previous deliberations and necessary background information on each Project/Pre-project was extremely useful for adequate work of the Panel before it could finalize its evaluations and recommendations.
- 4.4 In following-up the meeting's results, the Panel requested the Secretariat to provide the following information and documents to all countries who have submitted proposals:
- The Overall Assessment and Specific Recommendations on each proposal submitted by the country (**Annex**);

- General findings and final categories commended by this Panel (section 5 and **Appendix III** of this report).
- 4.5 General findings and recommendations of the Fiftieth Expert Panel, as derived from the appraisal of 35 proposals, are listed in section 5.
- 4.6 The Panel heartily appreciated the willingness of the Secretariat to work effectively for very long hours whereby full deliberation of the 35 proposals and the success of this Fiftieth Panel were made possible.

5. GENERAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- twelve (12) Proposals (34 percent of the total) received a category 4, indicating that the Expert Panel does not commend these to the Committee for approval as they require complete reformulation;
- fifteen (15) Proposals (43 percent of the total) will be sent back to proponents for essential revisions, rated as category 2;
- eight (8) Project Proposals: 1 pre-project and 7 Project Proposals (23 percent of the total) were commended to the Committee for final appraisal with minor modifications required (category 1), three (3) were new projects and five (5) were revised submissions.

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

It is to be noted that around 63% of the proposals which received a category 1 had been previously revised (proposals that had received a category 2 at previous Expert Panels).

Finding n°2: The Panel noted that proposals were mainly foreseen to be executed by government agencies, but also to a lesser extent by NGOs, and local community organizations addressing the various needs of the countries at the national, regional, and local levels.

Finding n°3: Most Project Proposals dealt with rather conventional themes for ITTO. The panel noted the submission of a few transnational proposals.

Findings n°4: A large number of Project Proposals charged a high share of personnel costs to ITTO. Indeed costs for international consultants, subcontracts, and especially capital items (e.g. vehicles) often appeared to be unjustified.

Finding n°5: The Panel noticed that gender issues are generally not being incorporated in Project Proposals.

Finding n°6: A number of proposals failed because there was no reference to previous proposals and results, and ITTO guidelines.

Finding n°7: A number of new proposals did not adequately address the identification of the key problem in the proposal, which weakens their design.

Finding n°8: In a number of proposals, the indicators were not quantitative.

Finding n°9: A failure to address project sustainability after completion was a common problem, and the knowledge management component of the projects was not properly addressed.

Finding n°10: The Panel noted that the new searchable data tool ("Project Search") created by the Secretariat is freely accessible on the ITTO website (www.itto.int).

Finding n°11: The Panel noted that numerous proposals didn't fully utilize the ITTO Manual for project formulation and follow relevant guidelines.

Finding n°12: The Panel noted that numerous proposals did not adequately state clear roles and responsibilities of both the government agencies and NGO's collaborating on the implementation.

Finding n°13: The Panel noted the proponents are having difficulties in using the tools that ITTO provides for project formulation specifically Protocol as related to the construction of the budget.

Finding n°14: The Panel noted that in some cases the focal point did not give due attention in screening the proposals before the submission.

Recommendations:

For the Secretariat:

1. The Panel recognizes that formulating proposals in accordance with the ITTO Manual for project formulation may be a complex process. The Secretariat should encourage the countries to seek guidance from their ITTO country focal points.
2. The Panel encourages the Secretariat to harmonize the Protocol and the 3rd edition of the manual. The Secretariat should encourage countries and proponents to request training on Protocol. The Panel recommends that the Secretariat translates Protocol into French and Spanish.

For the Expert Panel:

1. At the beginning of each Expert Panel (EP) session, the Panel should recall the Terms of Reference, and specific recommendations and findings from the previous EP report. The chairperson is encouraged to follow up on recommendations to the Secretariat and to the Panel.
2. Reviewers should jointly sign-off on final recommendation sheets after consulting between themselves.
3. Reviewers should consider gender issues that promote womens' participation in the project when reviewing proposals, such as gender sensitive indicators, activities addressing gender issues, and budget allocation to these activities.

For the Project Proponents:

1. Proponents are advised to carefully review and follow the Manual for project formulation Third Edition 2009 in English, French, and Spanish, and use Protocol.
2. Where applicable, relevant ITTO guidelines should be explicitly referenced in Project Proposals.
3. Where previously completed ITTO projects and submitted Project Proposals are directly relevant to the proposal in question (the searchable data tool "Project Search" [www.itto.int/project_search] could be consulted), they should be explicitly referenced in the proposal.
4. Check the recommendation in the Manual before writing the outcomes in order to establish a connection between the logical framework matrix and the objectives.
5. The problem analysis is a crucial part of the project, and the proponents are advised to consult with the relevant stakeholder at the proposed project site to identify the key problem before formulating the project. The problem must be effectively and efficiently addressed.
6. To the extent possible, indicators should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Realistic, and Time-bound).
7. Where environmental impacts are anticipated, environmental sustainability and impacts need to be adequately addressed (Refer to Appendix B).
8. Project sustainability after the project completion should be fully addressed in the Project Proposals with the inclusion of institutional, financial, political, and social aspects of the project.
9. In the stakeholder analysis section, the stakeholder analysis table is not sufficient by itself. Project proponents need to provide textual explanations regarding stakeholder characteristics, participation of stakeholders in proposal formulation, and plans for engagement in project implementation.

10. Proponents are strongly recommended to pay special attention to the format stipulated by ITTO for the presentation for revised proposals (bold and underlined).

11. Where appropriate, proponents should consider the gender issues in the stakeholder analysis, specific objective, and output indicators, which quantify the terms of targets of womens' participation and access to project benefits.

12. Proponents should give importance to key assumptions and identify the risks related to them by using the ITTO manual to describe them.

For Country Focal Points:

1. The Panel encourages the country focal points to fully and carefully review the proposals, according to the ITTO Manual, before they are submitted to ITTO.

2. The Panel encourages the country focal points to disseminate the ITTO manual and guidelines, the Panel recommendations, and several previous Expert Panel reports to every potential proponent.

3. The Panel advises the country focal points to enforce the proposal submission deadlines.

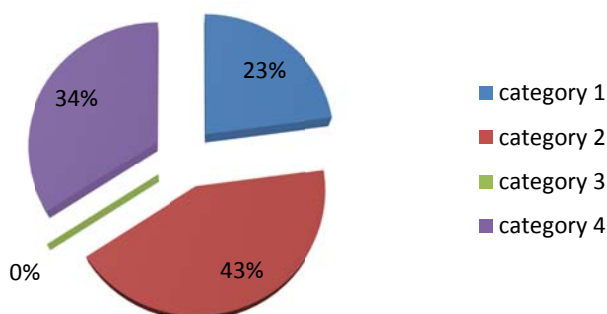
4. In the case of revised proposals, the country focal points should review the proposal strictly, according to the ITTO Manual in order to assure the proposal will be considered by the Panel. Revised text should always be in bold and underlined.

6. EXPERIENCE FROM APPLICATION OF THE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

As already pointed out by the report of the 39th session of the Expert Panel (EP), the use of the appraisal system (Appendix V and VI) became standard procedure.

7. PANEL DECISIONS ON PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS

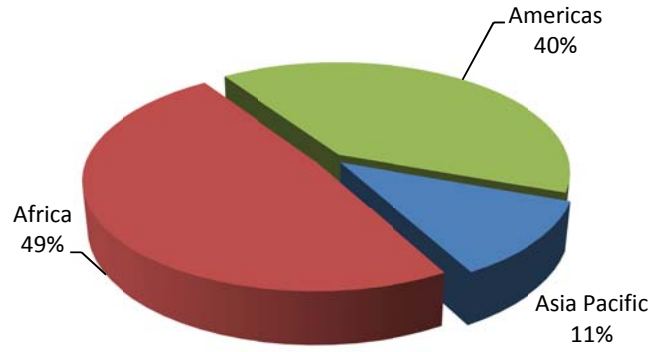
The Panel's decisions are listed in **Appendix III**, in accordance with established practice. Proposals classified by category, by regions, by committee areas and by submitting countries are summarised in the following tables and charts:



Summary of Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the Fiftieth Expert Panel by Region

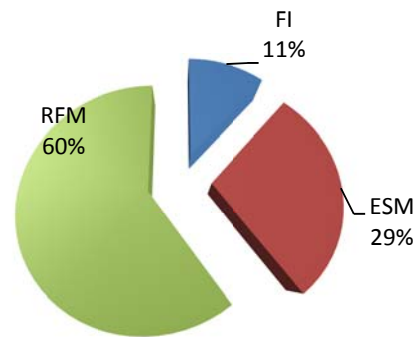
Region	Project Proposals				Pre-project Proposals				Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	
<i>Americas</i>	8	1	5	14	-	-	-	-	14
<i>Asia Pacific</i>	1	3	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
<i>Africa</i>	10	-	5	15	2	-	-	2	17
Total	19	4	10	33	2	-	-	2	35

RFM = Reforestation and Forest Management
 FI = Forest Industry
 ESM = Economics, Statistics and Markets



Decisions of the 50th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Committee Area

Category	Committee			Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	
<i>Projects</i>				
1	5	1	1	7
2	8	2	4	14
3	-	-	-	-
4	6	1	5	12
Total	19	4	10	33
<i>Pre-projects</i>				
1	1	-	-	1
2	1	-	-	1
4	-	-	-	-
Total	2	-	-	2



Decisions of the 50th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Submitting Country

Country	Category				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Cameroon	-	4	-	2	6
Congo	-	1	-	-	1
Costa Rica	-	1	-	-	1
Ecuador	2	1	-	2	5
Ghana	(1)	(1)+2	-	4	8
Guatemala	-	-	-	2	2
Guatemala/Mexico	1	-	-	-	1
Honduras	-	2	-	-	2
Indonesia	1	1	-	-	2
Mali	-	1	-	1	2
Mexico	1	-	-	1	2
Panama	1	-	-	-	1
Philippines	1	-	-	-	1
Viet Nam	-	1	-	-	1
Total	(1)+7	(1)+14	-	12	35

Note: Parenthesis indicates pre-project.

APPENDIX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT PANEL FOR THE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Panel shall:

- (i) Assess new Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the organization. The recommendations for amendments to these proposals shall be made by the Expert Panel exclusively for the purpose of ensuring their technical soundness;
- (ii) Screen the Project Proposals for their relevance to ITTO's Action Plan and Work Programs (in the areas of Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry), and consistency with ITTO decisions and policy guidelines, but not otherwise prioritize them;
- (iii) Where reformulation involving major amendments is recommended, request to carry out a final appraisal of the revised versions of Project and Pre-project Proposals, prior to their presentation to the relevant ITTO Committees;
- (iv) Report on the results of the technical assessment of Project and Pre-project Proposals to the submitting governments and to the ITTO Council and Committees, through the ITTO Secretariat;
- (v) The Expert Panel shall take into consideration previous Expert Panels' reports.

The Expert Panel, in assessing Projects and Pre-projects, shall also take into account:

- (a) their relevance to the objectives of the ITTA, 2006 and the requirement that a Project or Pre-project should contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Agreement objectives;
- (b) their environmental and social effects;
- (c) their economic effects;
- (d) their cost effectiveness;
- (e) the need to avoid duplication of efforts;
- (f) if applicable, their relationship and integration with ITTO policy work and their consistency with the ITTO Action Plan 2013-2018 including:
 - Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Production Forests, 1993;
 - ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests, 1996;
 - ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests, 2002;
 - ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, 2009; and
 - Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, 2015.

APPENDIX II

Rating Categories of the ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals

Rating schedule for Project Proposals

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

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the Pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee (e.g. complete reformulation is necessary; in case of rev.2 Project Proposals; Project not relevant; Project with insufficient information, etc.).

Rating schedule for Pre-project Proposals

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

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that the Pre-project Proposal is not commended to the Committee. The proposal is submitted with the recommendation not to approve the Pre-project Proposal.

APPENDIX III
List of Project and Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the
Fiftieth Expert Panel

Project No.	Title	Country	Category
PPD 182/15 (F)	Supporting Protected - Area Communities in Afram Plains to Engage in Integrated Management of Charcoal and other Economic Timber Species in Community Lands	Ghana	1
PPD 184/15 (F)	Development of Payment for Environmental Services Scheme for local community groups and private developer forest plantations in degraded lands, Ghana	Ghana	2
PD 769/15 Rev.1 (F)	Governance and Local Community Participation in Mangrove Forest Management and Restoration in the Gulf of Fonseca, Honduras	Honduras	2
PD 774/15 Rev.1 (F)	Implementation of the Forest Management Plan of the Chepigana Forest Reserve, Choco-Darién Eco-Region, as a Conservation and Sustainable Development Alternative for a Protected Area	Panama	1
PD 775/15 Rev.1 (F)	Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico	Guatemala Mexico	1
PD 777/15 Rev.1 (F)	Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders	Indonesia	1
PD 780/15 Rev.1 (F)	Sustainable Indigenous Species Reforestation, PLUS Climate Adapted Women Livelihoods in Six Rural Communities in Ghana's Akwapim and Upper Krobo Districts	Ghana	2
PD 781/15 (F)	Master Plan for the Repositioning of Forest Management as a Competitive Land Use in the Agroforestry Landscape of the Huetar Norte Region of Costa Rica 2015-2021	Costa Rica	2
PD 782/15 (F)	Susa Range Forest Restoration Project	Ghana	4
PD 783/15 (F)	Reforestation and Restoration of the Prolific Timber Production Legacy of Ghana's Dome River Forest Reserve Through Demonstrative Local Entrepreneurship Spirit	Ghana	4
PD 785/15 (F)	Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics	Mexico	1
PD 786/15 (F)	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in the Kouilou Coastal Area, with the Participation of Local Communities Established in this Area of Southern Congo	Congo	2
PD 787/15 (F)	Community Forest Management in the Department of Olancho, Honduras	Honduras	2
PD 789/15 (F)	Forest Plantation Development in the Transitional Zone of Ghana's Kpando Municipal Assembly, Employing Poverty Reduction Strategies' with sustainable mixed and pure Forestry Plantations	Ghana	4
PD 790/15 (F)	Improving Implementation of ITTO/ATO Standards in Ghana	Ghana	4

PD 792/15 (F)	Participatory Forest Monitoring as a Strategy to Strengthen the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Ecuador	Ecuador	4
PD 794/15 (F)	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador	Ecuador	1
PD 797/15 (F)	Participatory Development, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Landscapes in the Bamboutos Highlands, West Cameroon	Cameroon	2
PD 798/15 (F)	Sustainable and Participatory Management Project for the Mangrove of the Cameroon Estuary	Cameroon	4
PD 799/15 (F)	Gender Mainstreaming in the Development of Actions to Control Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Central Africa	Cameroon	2
PD 802/15 (F)	Building the Capacity of Local Village Communities for the Restoration, Management and Governance of the Founou and Wani Forest Reserves in the Macina District, Segou Region, Mali	Mali	2
PD 771/15 Rev.1 (I)	Genetic Conservation, Utilization and Management of Gall Rust Resistant Strains of <i>Falcataria moluccana</i> Growing in the Philippines	Philippines	1
PD 784/15 (I)	Sustainable development of Vietnam wood processing industry by codifying the database	Viet Nam	2
PD 788/15 (I)	Achieving sustainable forest management through enhanced competitiveness of small & medium wood industries (SMWIs) in Ciamis district of West Java province, Indonesia	Indonesia	2
PD 805/15 (I)	Market Survey and Wood Technological Characterization for Balsawood (<i>Ochroma Pyramidale</i> Cav.) in the Lacandon Forest, Chiapas, Mexico	Mexico	4
PD 751/14 Rev.1 (M)	Sustainable Forest Management in the Chimbo River Basin, Ecuador: Conserving forest resources and agroforestry systems as a mechanism to strengthen the economic inclusion of community families, particularly rural women, settled in the area	Ecuador	1
PD 791/15 (M)	Community Forest Landscapes and Small Enterprises contributing to Legal and Sustainable Timber Trade in Ghana	Ghana	2
PD 793/15 (M)	Expanding Responsible Forest Management and Trade in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region as a Strategy to Promote Social and Economic Growth and Reduce Tropical Forest Degradation and Deforestation	Ecuador	4
PD 795/15 (M)	National Participatory Inventory of Forest Species to Support the Development of Public Forest Management Policies in Ecuador: A Case-Study on <i>Swietenia Macrophylla</i>	Ecuador	2
PD 796/15 (M)	Establishing a Forest Statistics Collection, Storage and Dissemination Management Unit in Cameroon	Cameroon	2
PD 800/15 (M)	Strengthening the Forest Governance through Improving the Access to Information and the Institutional Capacities Building Process	Cameroon	2

PD 801/15 (M)	Building the Capacity for Forest Law Enforcement and Local Governance in the Industrial and Commercial Use of Wood and Timber in the Segou Region, Mali	Mali	4
PD 803/15 (M)	Forest Research Strengthening through the Consolidation and Implementation of the National Forest Research Programme in Guatemala	Guatemala	4
PD 804/15 (M)	Processing and Marketing of Timber from Secondary Species in Remaining Forests Outside Protected Areas in Peten as a Strategy to Reduce the Pressure on Endangered CITES-Listed Forest Species	Guatemala	4
PD 806/15 (M)	Building the Capacity to Elicit Further Funding for the Sustainable Management of Forest and Wildlife Resources in Cameroon	Cameroon	4

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING OF THE EXPERT PANEL
FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF PROJECT PROPOSALS
Yokohama, 27 – 31 July 2015

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APPENDIX V

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO Project Proposal (PD)

Weighted Scoring System									
1.	Project relevance, origin and expected outcomes (15)				Mark	Score	Threshold		
1.	1.	Relevance							
1.	1.	1.	<i>Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities (1.2.1)</i>					Y	
1.	1.	2.	<i>Relevance to the submitting country's policies (1.2.2)</i>					Y	
1.	2.	Origin (1.1)					5		
1.	3.	Geogr. location (1.3.1)+ Social, cultural and environ. aspects (1.3.2)					5		
1.	4.	Expected outcomes at project completion (1.4)					5		
2.	Project identification process (25)								
2.	1.	Institutional set up and organisational issues (4.1. + 2.1.1)					5		
2.	2.	Stakeholders					10	Y	6
2.	2.	1.	<i>Stakeholder analysis (2.1.2)</i>			5			
2.	2.	2.	<i>Stakeholders involved at inception (2.1.3.) & implementation (4.1.4.)</i>			5			
2.	3.	Problem analysis (2.1.3)					10	Y	6
2.	3.	1.	<i>Problem identification</i>			5			
2.	3.	2.	<i>Problem tree</i>			5			
3.	Project design (45)								
3.	1.	Logical framework matrix (2.1.4)					20	Y	13
3.	1.	1.	<i>Objectives (2.2)</i>			5			
3.	1.	2.	<i>Outputs (3.1.1)</i>			5			
3.	1.	3	<i>Indicators & means of verification (columns 2 and 3 of the LogFrame)</i>			5			
3.	1.	4	<i>Assumptions and risks (3.5.1)</i>			5			
3.	2.	Implementation					20	Y	13
3.	2.	1.	<i>Activities (3.1.2)</i>			5			
3.	2	2	<i>Strategy (approaches and methods, 3.2)</i>			5			
3.	2	3	<i>Work plan (3.3)</i>			5			
3.	2.	4	<i>Budget (3.4)</i>			5			
3.	3.	Sustainability (3.5.2)					5	Y	3
4.	Implementation arrangements (15)								
4.	1.	Project's management (EA - 4.1.1, Key staff - 4.1.2, SC - 4.1.3)					5	Y	3
4.	2.	Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation (4.2)					5		
4.	3.	Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning (4.3)					5		
Entire project proposal (100)						100,0%	Y	75%	
Category						1			

Marks indicate:

- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
- 5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

Rating categories:

Category 1:	The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.
Category 2:	The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.
Category 3:	The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.
Category 4:	The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS (PPD)

Weighted Scoring System								
1.	PRE-PROJECT CONTEXT (5)				Mark	Score	Threshold	
1.	1.		Origin and justification			5		
1.	2.		Relevance					
1.	2.	1.	Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities				Y	
1.	2.	2.	Relevance to the submitting Country's policies				Y	
2.	JUSTIFICATION OF PRE-PROJECT (15)							
2.	1.		Objectives			15	Y	9
2.	1.	1.	Development objective		5			
2.	1.	2.	Specific objective		5			
2.	2.		Preliminary problem identification		5			
3.	PRE-PROJECT INTERVENTIONS (25)							
3.			Outputs and activities			10	Y	7
3.	1.		Outputs		5			
3.	2.		Activities, inputs and unit costs		5			
3.	3.		Approaches and methods			5		
3.	4.		Work plan			5		
3.	5.		Budget			5		
4.	IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (15)							
4.	1.		Executing agency and organizational structure			5		
4.	2.		Pre-Project Management			5		
4.	3.		Monitoring and reporting			5		
Entire project proposal (60)						100,0%	Y	75%
Category						1		

Marks indicate:

- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
- 5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

Rating categories:

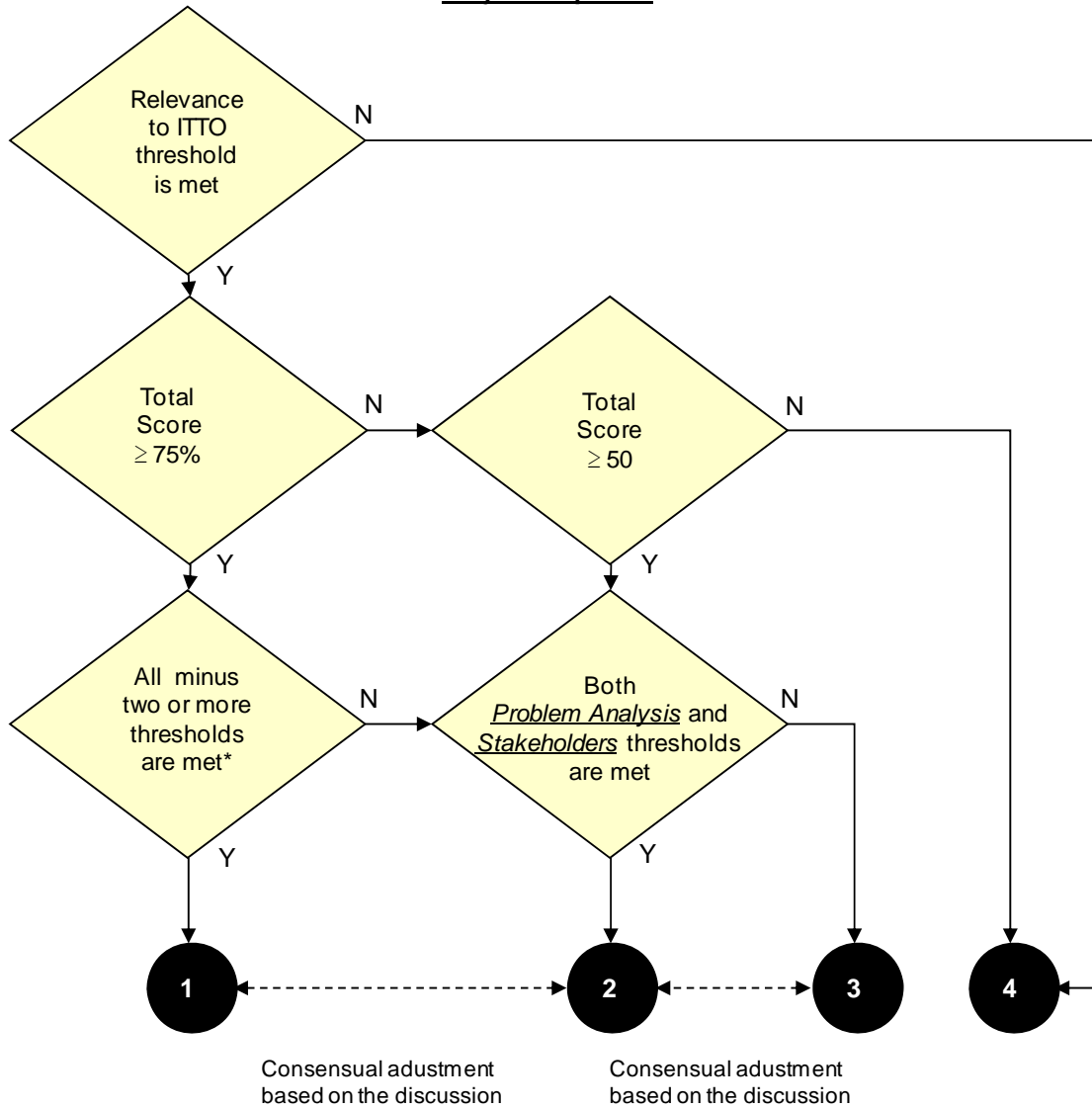
Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

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

Appendix VI
Flow charts for deciding categories in the scoring system

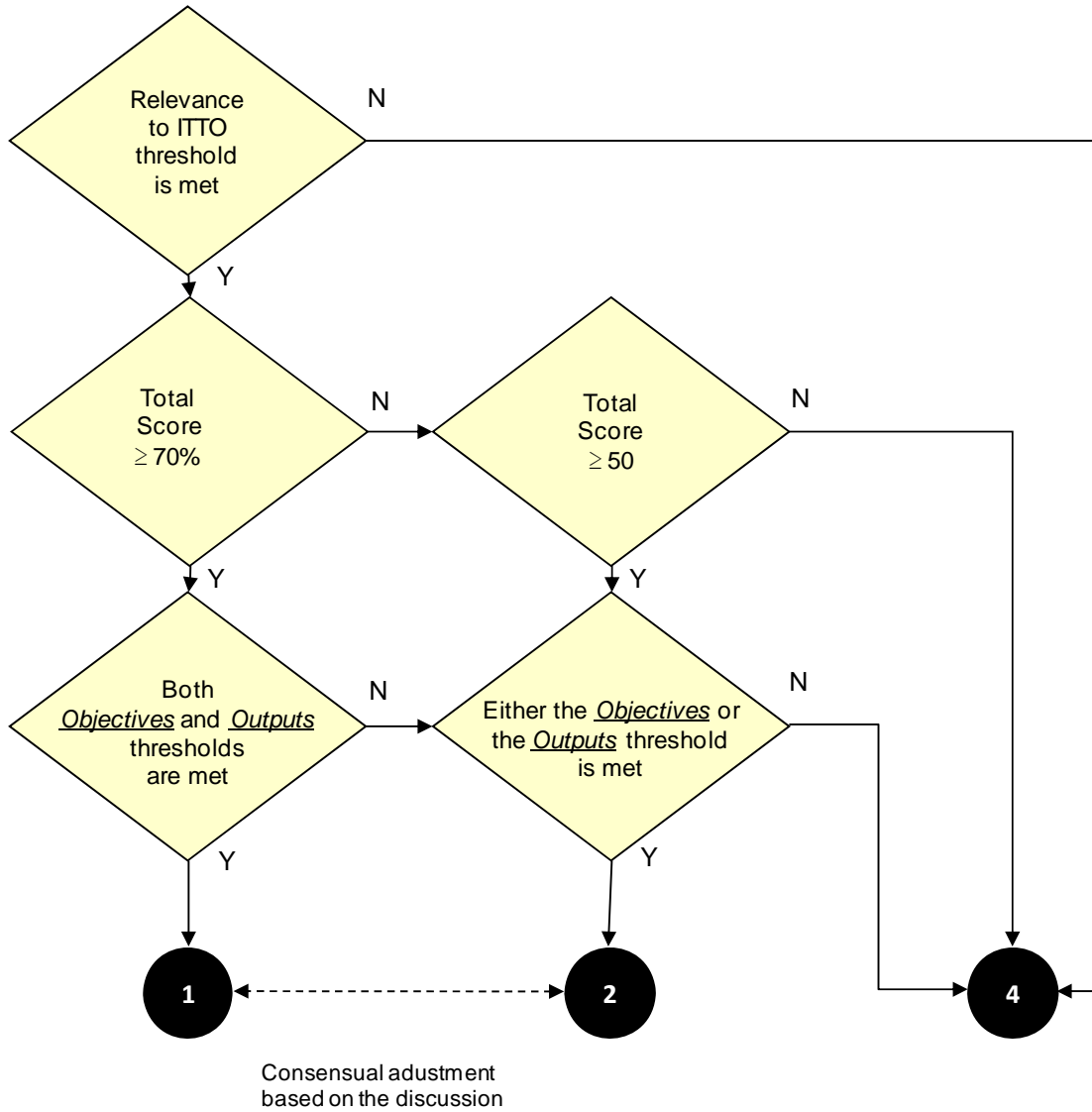
Project Proposals



*Thresholds failed cannot be any two among the following three:
 - Stakeholder
 - Logical Framework
 - Sustainability

- Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments. Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.
- Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee. Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.
- Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a pre-project proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal. Proposal is missing fundamental information, consequently a pre-project is required and to be submitted to the EP.
- Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee. Proposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Pre-Project Proposals



- Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments. Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.
- Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee. Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.
- Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee. Proposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Annex

**Assessment, recommendation and conclusion by the Fiftieth Expert Panel on each
Project and Pre-project Proposal**

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

Although the Panel recognized the proponent's effort to address the Panel's recommendations, the proposal still have a number of problems. Firstly, the proposal is not fully consistent yet with the format provided in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. As a result, some important sub-sections, particularly those for the implementation arrangements, are still lacking. Weakness is also found in the existing sub-sections and important components in the proposal, which include, among others: stakeholder analysis, problem analysis and organizational structure. Budget section also has problems, including the inconsistency with the work plan and the confusing budget components, as well as the miscalculation of ITTO programme support cost.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Properly number titles for Sections and sub-sections, 1.3.1 (missing whole title), 2.1.3, 2.1.4 (missing sub-section number), 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 3.1 (missing whole title), 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.4.1 (missing whole title), 3.4.2 (missing sub-section number), 3.4.3 (missing sub-section number), 3.4.4 (missing sub-section number), 3.5 (missing section number), 3.5.1 (missing sub-section number), 3.5.2 (missing sub-section number), 4.1 (missing whole title), 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.4, 4.2 and 4.3.
2. Develop text for Sub-sections, 4.1.3, 4.3.1 and 4.3.2.
3. Include in the main text a summary of the achievements and lessons learned from PD 44/95 Rev.3 (F) Phases I and II contained in the Annex 3 (Section 1.1).
4. Add the relevant strategic priorities and actions contained in the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 (Section 1.2).
5. Clearly indicate the location of the protected areas targeted in the proposal in the geographic map (current Section 1.3).
6. Improve the stakeholder analysis, based on the information provided on page 14. Specifically, identify entities for each of the stakeholder groups, such as forest conservation institutes, community based organizations, business sector and NGOs, separate local communities from local governments and other administrative bodies and re-categorize stakeholder groups properly into primary stakeholders, secondary stakeholders and tertiary stakeholders in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (Sub-section 2.1.2).
7. Reformulate the problem tree and the objective tree taking into account the fact that the problem, causes and sub-caused identified in the problem tree are turned into the specific objective, project outputs and associated activities in the objective tree (current Section 2.2). The components found in the current objective tree do not coincide with the specific objective, outputs and their associated activities.
8. Reconsider the impact indicator so as to make it more realistic (current Sub-section 2.3.1).
9. Ensure consistency between work plan and master budget schedule and other budget tables, specifically for Activities 2.3 and 3.1 (current Section 3.4). Properly indicate budget components in the master budget schedule, so as to maintain consistency with other budget tables (current Section 3.4).
10. Move the final audit cost to the miscellaneous budget category in the executing agency yearly budget table (current Section 3.4). Properly calculate ITTO programme support cost (12%), which should be US\$ 23,943 (current Section 3.4).
11. Provide justification on the budget allocation to Activity 2.2 for the implementation of biennial operational plan (US\$ 30,000) and Activity 3.2 for the development and implementation of reforestation plan (US\$ 65,000) (current Section 3.4).
12. Check the following figures in the master budget schedule (current Section 3.4):

- ITTO budget for Year 1 for Activity 2.2 on page 23;
- Executing Agency budget for Year 2 for Activity 2.3 on Page 23;
- Executing Agency budget for Year 2 for Activity 3.2 on Page 23; and
- ITTO budget for Year 2 for Activity 3.3 on Page 24.

Currently, the total amount in the first row does not match the sum of figures in the lower rows for each of the columns above.

13. Change the quarter numbers for Year 2 (5, 6, 7 and 8) in the work plan to 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Current Section 3.4).
14. Elaborate the organizational structure on Page 30 by clarifying the relationship with the ICF's Project Management Unit and the Technical Team (Current Section 4.2).
15. Include an Annex which shows the overall assessment and recommendations of the 50th Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: the panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modification and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can be commended to the Committee.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the significant improvement made in the Project Proposal in which its recommendations had been well incorporated by the proponent. However, the Panel still identified some areas in the proposal for further improvement for its submission to the Committee for its approval. These areas include: stakeholder analysis, logical framework matrix and organizational structure. Some Panel members also expressed their concern about the expanded scope of the project as indicated in the ambitious objective tree, as well as the indicators in the logical framework matrix. Inconsistencies between the work plan and budget tables were also pointed out.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Rephrase the outputs into more appropriate form (Sub-sections 2.1.4 and 3.1.1). Also reassess the impact indicators, outcome indicators and output indicators and limit them to the relevant, measurable and quantitative ones to make the logistical framework matrix more practical (Sub-section 2.1.4).
2. Elaborate how the local communities and local timber industries and companies are involved in the stakeholder involvement mechanism as the primary stakeholders (Sub-section 4.1.4). Also describe the roles of MIAMBIANTE and ANAM and their relationship with other institutions in the implementation of the project. In this relation, keep consistency in the membership of the Project Steering Committee between the texts on Pages 41 and 43 and the Project Operational Chart (Figure 6) on Page 42 (Section 4.1 and Sub-section 4.1.3). Include the representatives of donors in the Project Steering Committee (Sub-section 4.1.3).
3. Keep consistency between work plan and project master budget schedule, particularly for Activities 1.2, 1.3 ,1.5,2.1 ,4.1, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 (Sections 3.3 and 3.4). Also check consistency between target values in the output indicators and quantities in the budget tables (Sub-section 2.1.4 and Section 3.4). Furthermore, check consistency in target values for Activities 3.2 and 4.1 between the list of activities on Page 19 and work plan (Sub-section 3.1.2 and Section 3.3).
4. Properly calculate ITTO programme support cost (12%), which should be US\$ 69,751, and the total of the ITTO contribution should be US\$ 651,013 and the grand total should be US\$ 926,411 (Sub-section 3.4.4).
5. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel fully recognized the uniqueness and the value of the transboundary nature of this Project Proposal. While the Panel noted the efforts of the proponents to address the recommendations forwarded by the Panel, a need for further improvement in the proposal were recognized for its submission to the Committee for the approval.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Include information on the geographic location of the target area (Sub-section 1.3.1).
2. Reformulate Activity 2.4 so as to fully cover development and implementation of a plan and pilot actions to reduce extensive grazing, as recommended by the Panel at its previous meeting (related to Recommendation 11).
3. Maintain consistency in the description of activities between the list of activities (Sub-section 3.1.2), work plan on page 26 (Section 3.3) and master budget schedule on Pages 27-32 (Sub-section 3.4.1).
4. Reduce the percentage of personnel cost in the ITTO budget, which is currently 54.6% excluding monitoring and review cost, ex-post evaluation cost and ITTO programme support cost, by shifting the cost of some technical experts to the Executing Agency budget and/or reviewing the need of technical reports (Sub-section 3.4.3).
5. Correct the number of the meeting of the Expert Panel in the title of Annex 11 from 50th to 49th.
6. Further elaborate the means to ensure sustainability of the project results (Sub-section 3.5.2).
7. Clarify the membership of the Steering Committee (Sub-section 4.1.3). There is inconsistency in the text between Page 12 and Page 42 regarding the membership of CONANP, CONAP and municipal councils concerned.
8. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

PD 777/15 Rev.1 (F)

Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders (Indonesia)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recalled the importance of the project aiming at improving the conservation and sustainable management of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) in West Java province, with a total area of around 114,779 hectares, as one of the most important biosphere reserves in Indonesia. In its appraisal of the revised proposal, the Panel noted that most of the specific recommendations of the Forty-ninth Panel had been adequately addressed. However, the Panel noted that the problem analysis and the logical framework matrix should be further improved in line with its previous concern over the need to implement the integrated management plan of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve which had been developed by TFL-PD 019/10 Rev.2 (M). Regarding the stakeholder involvement mechanism, the Panel observed that information on how stakeholders would be involved in the project implementation is still very weak. It should be strengthened to ensure the full and effective engagement of local key stakeholders by empowering women in CBR conservation and management during the implementation of the project.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Further improve the problem analysis by refining the key problem to fully reflect the three causes specified in the problem tree. The Panel observed that there is no clear linkage between the current key problem and the specific objective, the outputs and activities as the current key problem statement is merely related to "Inadequate strategies". In this connection, the Panel pointed out that the key problem can be refined with "Inadequate conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems in CBR" in the context of implementing the integrated management plan of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve;
2. Based on the refined key problem, the specific objective and logical framework matrix should be amended accordingly;
3. Review the budget provisions allocated for "International Workshop on CBR" and "International Event" in the ITTO Budget (Items 68 and 69), reconsider its relevance and adjust accordingly, if needed;
4. Further improve Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) to ensure the full and effective participation of key stakeholders during the implementation of the project. Engagement of a representative(s) from the concerned local communities in the PSC meeting is encouraged. More involvement of local stakeholders in the CC Forum to be established at the district level is essential. These include local academic society and local community organizations for enhancing the participation of women in CBR ecosystems planning and management; and
5. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the project and acknowledged that efforts had been made to address the comments in the overall assessment and most specific recommendations made by the Forty-ninth Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that there were still weaknesses in many sections and sub-sections of the gender-oriented project, which will be dealing with the reforestation using indigenous species and involving women groups in six rural communities in Ghana's Akwapim and Upper Krobo Districts. It was questioned why the revised version of this project was in bold and creating confusion for its assessment.

The Panel also noted that the Project Proposal contained a number of weaknesses in the following sections and sub-sections: (1) title was not clearly understandable with the concept of "*climate adapted women livelihoods*" as it is not clearly explained how it is linked to the main goal of reforestation; (2) relevance of how the project would support the ITTO objectives and priorities not explained in relation to the article 1 of the ITTA 2006 and the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018; (3) target project sites not clearly shown in maps for each of the six rural areas where women groups could be involved in the project implementation; (4) expected outcomes at project completion not elaborated in correlation with the outcome indicators of the specific objective as recommended by the ITTO manual for project formulation and also presenting a table with figures not well explained; (5) no explanation in the stakeholder analysis on how the six rural women groups were selected in view of their involvement in the project implementation; (6) problem analysis missing while the problem tree and objective tree were copied from the ITTO manual for project formulation without making relevant changes in both charts; (7) logical framework matrix with elements not consistent with those of the objective tree; (8) development objective and specific objective questionable as the problem tree and objective tree were copied instead of being derived from a consultation process with key stakeholders; (9) list of outputs and related activities not consistent with the problem tree and objective tree; (10) implementation approaches and methods proposing the signing of agreements without explaining their aims; (11) work plan not consistent with the objective tree and the list of activities under each output; (12) budgets difficult to assess due to the lack of consistency of activities listed in different sections of the Project Proposal and also due to the non-separation on ITTO contribution and counterpart contribution; assumptions and risks questionable due to the lack of consistency between the objective tree and logical framework matrix; (13) the value of community land for reforestation is not a project cost; (14) profile of the executing agency missing important information recommended by the manual for project formulation; (15) assumptions and risks questionable due the logical framework matrix not well elaborated.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Amend the project title by removing the confusing concept of "*plus climate adapted women livelihoods*" or explain the concept within the Project Proposal;
2. Provide a map with appropriate scale showing the project sites to be subject to reforestation activities by six rural communities;
3. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (compliance with ITTO objectives and priorities) by adding the appropriate explanation how the project will contribute to each relevant objective of the ITTA of 2006 and also to each relevant strategic priority of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018;
4. Further improve the stakeholders' analysis and related table of stakeholders in correlation with the identified key problem while making sure to breakdown rural women groups into relevant social categories, in relation to their main livelihood activities in the project area;
5. Add the problem analysis and prepare the associated problem tree and objective tree while making sure to follow the required ITTO format;
6. Further improve the description of the outcomes at project completion in the section 1.4, mainly in consistency with the outcomes indicators of the redefined specific objective;

7. Subsequent to the third, fourth and fifth specific recommendations, appropriately redefine the development objective and specific objective, as well as their respective indicators, in accordance with the key problem to be defined in the improved problem analysis and problem tree;
8. Subsequent to the third, fourth, fifth and sixth specific recommendations, revise the logical framework matrix with new project elements deriving from development objective, specific objective, problem tree and objective tree;
9. Further elaborate the Section 3.2 (implementation approaches and methods) in consistency with the improved problem analysis and revised logical framework matrix, while taking into account the findings, results and lessons from the completed projects PD 396/06 Rev.1 (F) and PD 534/08 Rev.1 (F);
10. Readjust the work plan so it is consistent with the improved problem tree and objective tree, as well as with the revised logical framework matrix and implementation approaches;
11. Revise the Section 3.5 (assumptions, risks and sustainability) in accordance with the revised logical framework matrix and in light of the assumptions made in the logical framework matrix;
12. Prepare the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Refer to the formats for budget tables, as required in the third edition of the ITTO manual for project formulation, and prepare separate tables of budget by component for each source (ITTO contribution and counterpart contribution), in addition to the consolidated budget by component,
 - b) Delete the budget item 41 since it is not a real contribution to the project by the Executing Agency.
 - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years),
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 85) so as to conform with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
13. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 781/15 (F)

Master plan for the Repositioning of Forest Management as a Competitive Land use in the Agroforestry Landscape of the Huetar Norte Region of Costa Rica 2015-2021

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized some fundamental problems in this Project Proposal. These include, among others: over ambitious scope and development and specific objectives with some too optimistic and even unrealistic indicators, such as 5-10% increase in forest owners' income in two years and 10% increase in timber price; ambiguous target forest type(s), i.e. natural forests and/or secondary forests, and a questionable target tree species, i.e. *Dipteryx panamensis*, CITES listed species (Appendix III); obscure rationale of retrieving abandoned permanent sampling plots and establishing demonstration areas; inconvincible assumptions and risks; and weak sustainability relying on unidentified resources. In addition, high unit cost of project staff members, missing components in the budget tables and inappropriate Steering Committee composition and monitoring protocol were also found. Moreover, the proposal does not have some important components necessary for a full Project Proposal.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Reconsider the scope and the whole structure of the Project Proposal. The approach toward the achievement of the development objective may be divided into 2-3 stages based on the problem analysis, and focus the first Project Proposal on the area which requires prior actions. On the basis of the above, add in-depth analysis of problems concerned and formulate a problem tree and an objective tree (Sub-section 2.1.3), elaborate specific objective, outcomes and associated activities (Sub-sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2, and Section 3.1), develop logical framework matrix with realistic indicators (Sub-section 2.1.4), and identify expected outcomes (Section 1.4). Other parts, including the weak section on assumptions, risks, sustainability (Section 3.5), need to be amended, re-developed or further improved accordingly.
2. Provide the following components which are currently missing in the proposal in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation:
 - i. objective tree (Sub-section 2.1.3);
 - ii. outputs with their associated indicators, means of verification and key assumptions in the logical framework matrix (Sub-section 2.1.4);
 - iii. a list of activities (Sub-section 3.1.2);
 - iv. a table to analyze assumptions, risks and alternative solutions (Sub-section 3.5.1);
 - v. organizational structure chart (Sub-section 4.1.1);
 - vi. profiles of the collaborating agencies (ONF and INISEFOR-UNA) (Annex); and
 - vii. TOR for key project personnel (Annex).
3. Complete the list of abbreviations and acronyms.
4. Provide reference details about cited literature (Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3).
5. Explain what the objectives are for the work on *Dipteryx panamensis*, which is now named *D. oleifera* (Section 1.1, Sub-section 1.3.4 and/or Sub-section 2.1.3).
6. Include monitoring and review cost (US\$ 10,000 per year), ex-post evaluation cost (US\$ 15,000) and ITTO programme support cost (12%) in the ITTO budget table (Sub-section 3.4.3). ITTO programme support cost will be US\$ 50,755 and the total amount available for the actual implementation of the Project Proposal will be US\$ 387,959. In consideration of the high percentage of personnel cost in the ITTO budget in the current proposal, which is 75.8% excluding ITTO programme support cost, monitoring and review cost and ex-post evaluation cost, consider reducing the personnel cost, including by utilizing internal experts, thereby moving the cost of hiring external experts to the Executing Agency budget.
7. Consider including duty travel cost, consumable item cost and miscellaneous cost, including final audit cost, in the Executing Agency budget table (Sub-section 3.4.4). Also reconsider the high unit cost of Project Coordinator which is US\$ 4,000 per month.

8. Specify Steering Committee members, including representatives from the Executing Agency, ITTO and donors (Sub-section 4.1.3).
9. Describe a mechanism to inform and involve stakeholders, including local producers, local farmers, forest managers, timber industry and others as listed in the stakeholder analysis, in project implementation referring to the ITTO Manual for project formulation (Sub-section 4.1.4).
10. Note that project progress report is submitted biannually (Section 4.2).
11. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: the panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modification and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can be commended to the Committee.

PD 782/15 (F)

Susa Range Forest Restoration Project (Ghana)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the restoring of degraded forest area and providing alternative livelihood on the Susa Mountain Range in the Volta Region of Ghana. However, the Panel noted that the Project Proposal did not clearly show its conformity with the objectives outlined in Article 1 of the ITTA 2006, as it only mentioned those objectives without explaining how the project is linked to each of them. Similarly, it did not show its conformity with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, as strategic priorities were just mentioned without further explanation justifying the correlation with the project. The Panel also noted that most sections and sub-sections of the Project Proposal were either poorly elaborated or presenting technical weaknesses in relation to the requirements of the ITTO Manual for project formulation, including the most critical ones for an ITTO project (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree, logical framework matrix, budget, assumptions, risks and sustainability).

Given the above mentioned comments, the Panel was of the view that all critical components of an ITTO project were not appropriately elaborated by the proponent, making it impossible to consider this proposal as acceptable to continue in the ITTO project cycle. A completely new Project Proposal can be submitted while making sure to follow the requirements of the ITTO Manual for project formulation.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that a reformulation of the Project Proposal is essential and the Panel will need to assess the reformulated proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the reforestation and rehabilitation of the degraded Dome River Forest Reserve, in Ghana, with the participation of local communities. However, the Panel noted that the Project Proposal did not clearly show its conformity with the objectives outlined in article 1 of the ITTA 2006, as it only mentioned six of these objectives without justifying the link of each to the project. Similarly, it did not show its conformity with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, as all six strategic priorities were just mentioned without further explanation justifying the correlation with the project.

The Panel also noted that most sections and sub-sections of the Project Proposal were poorly elaborated: (1) relevance to ITTO objectives and priorities not explained under each relevant objective of the ITTA of 2006 and also under each relevant strategic priority of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018; (2) target area of the project not providing the criteria for the selection of project sites for eight communities to be involved in the project implementation; (3) institutional set-up and organizational issues poorly elaborated; (4) problem tree and objective tree copied from the ITTO manual for project formulation without making relevant changes in both charts; (5) logical framework matrix not consistent with the objective tree; (6) development objective and specific objective questionable as the problem tree and objective tree were copied instead of being derived from a consultation process with key stakeholders; (7) list of outputs and related activities not consistent with the problem tree; implementation approaches and methods copied from the project PD 780/15 (F) submitted by another Ghanaian NGO; (8) work plan not consistent with the objective tree and the list of activities under each output; (9) budgets difficult to assess due to the lack of consistency of activities listed in different sections of the Project Proposal; (10) assumptions and risks questionable due to the lack of consistency between the objective tree and logical framework matrix; (11) profile of the executing agency not following the format and missing important information.

The Panel further noted that some critical sections of an ITTO project (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree and logical framework matrix) were simply copied with either minor changes or no change. This is not acceptable as these sections should be specific to a target project and be the result of a consultation process with key stakeholders operating or having influence in that target project area where the project would contribute to address the identified key problem.

Finally, it was the view of the Panel that the Project Proposal should be completely reformulated in accordance with the guidance of the Third edition of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation, due to the fundamental weaknesses of the Project Proposal as above-mentioned. The proponent should develop the most critical sections of an ITTO project (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree and logical framework matrix) through a consultation process with key stakeholders rather than copying them from other ITTO projects.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that a reformulation of the Project Proposal is essential and the Panel will need to assess the reformulated proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for appraisal.

PD 785/15 (F)

**Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the
Moist Tropics (Mexico)**

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this project for addressing pests and diseases problems of seven timber species (*Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Tectona grandis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Eucalyptus urophylla* and *E. grandis*) to promote commercial forest plantations (CFP) in Mexico as CFPs have frequently been affected by phytosanitary problems with a detrimental effect on timber volume and quality. The Panel further recognized the competent expertise of the Executing Agency in dealing with the proposed project activities and welcomed their initiative on this proposal.

However, in its appraisal of the proposal the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in the formulation of the proposal and the need to improve it in accordance with the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009). These include weak assessment of the stakeholders analysis and project analysis; weak development of the logical framework matrix; unclear stakeholders' involvement mechanisms. With regard to the budget, the Panel noted that the project is seeking a very high amount from ITTO which might be necessary a phase approach given the current situation of financing. In light of this, the Panel felt that the ITTO budget should be substantially reduced by focusing on selected strategic activities in line with on the revised problem analysis. Given the importance of the intent of this project, the Panel was of the view that, before its commending to the Committee, the proposal should be improved by incorporating the recommendations detailed below.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Correct the numbering of Section 2.1.5 (Objectives) with 2.2 in the table of contents. The numbering of Sections 2.1.6 and 2.1.7 will be adjusted to Sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2;
2. Rework Section 1.2.1 (Conformity with ITTO's objective and principles) with the ITTA, 2006 and the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (2015) besides the ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests (1993). Provide more elaboration on the expected contribution of the project to the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018;
3. Rework Section 1.3.2 (Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects) by describing in details the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects at the time of project identification with more appropriate information and data of the project area;
4. Rework Section 2.1.2 (Stakeholder analysis) by providing a standard stakeholder analysis table presented in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009). There is the need to systematically present the identified stakeholders' characteristics, problems, potential and involvement in the project for creating a sense of ownership among them that will help ensure their full commitment to the project and the sustainability of activities after completion;
5. Review the main causes of the key problem to be addressed by the project in the problem analysis (Section 2.1.3). The project may focus on selected main causes, taking into account the main expertise of the Executing Agency. For instance, the cause of scant availability of healthy nursery plants may be addressed by partners. In addition, the coverage of the project area may be narrow down. This strategic and focused approach will reduce the engagement of sub-contractors;
6. In Section 2.1.4 (Logical Framework Matrix), the two specific objectives should be consolidated into one in accordance with the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009). The presentation of the specific objective should be consistent with the presentation of only one key problem in the problem tree. Based on the refined specific objective, improve the indicators for the development and specific objectives, and outputs in a SMART (specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bound) way in the logical framework matrix;
7. Provide impact and outcome indicators in Sections 2.1.6 (Development objective and impact indicators) and 2.1.7 (Specific objective and outcome indicators) in accordance with the improved logical framework matrix;

8. Present Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods) in a concise way by highlighting only key approaches and methods to be used to address the key problem. Scientific information on pests and diseases of the concerned timber species and research methods can be presented as an Annex;
9. Rework the project budget by reducing substantially the project personnel, sub-contacts and duty travel among others. For instance, Activity 1.2 (Diagnosis of pests and diseases in commercial plantations) may be conducted in strategically important areas. The budget provision (about US\$730,000) allocated for the implementation of Activities 1.4 (Development of strategies to manage detected pests and diseases) and 1.5 (Validation of strategies) may be reduced substantially with the support of partners. A critical review to the provision of the sub-contacts of the ITTO budget should be made as it was not well justified;
10. Improve Section 3.5 (Assumptions and Risks) by specifying potential risks which would be beyond the control of project management and mitigation measures to address the risks;
11. Improve Section 4.1.3 (Project steering committee) by specifying the proposed membership and main duties of the PSC. Provide an organizational chart to show the organizational set-up of the project with the Executing Agency, collaborating agencies (if any), PSC, consultative committee and others as appropriate;
12. Improve Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) by specifying key stakeholders/partners besides the project team to ensure their effective engagement during the implementation of the project; and
13. Include two annexes: One showing the assessment made by the 50th Expert Panel including overall assessment and specific recommendations, and another one showing the respective modifications with regard to each specific recommendation in tabular form. Modifications in a revised proposal should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

PD 786/15 (F)

Conservation and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in the Kouilou Coastal Area, With the Participation of Local Communities Established in this Area of Southern Congo

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledge the importance of the project that could contribute to the sustainable management of mangroves in the Congo Republic with the participation of local communities. The Panel noted that the proposal's aim is to initiate a sustainable management process for the mangroves of the Republic of Congo, through an integrated coastal zone management approach. The map was not clearly showing the project sites where pilot rehabilitation activities will be implemented by the project. The Panel also noted some stakeholders linked to environment aspects of the project area were not described in the stakeholder analysis. The economic aspects were not enough elaborated in relation to the oil industry, fishing and maritime port activities which could have an impact on the degradation of the Congolese mangroves. The expected outcomes after project completion were not correlated to the indicators of the specific objective. The Panel also noted that the indicator of the specific objective was not appropriately defined in relation to the logical framework matrix. The Panel further noted that the set-up and organizational issues did not describe how key stakeholders could be partners for the implementation of this project. Furthermore, the Panel noted that implementation approaches and methods did not describe the operational aspects of the project implementation which could justify the acquisition of some inputs (vehicle, satellite imagery, number of consultants, etc.). Finally, the budget could not be fully assessed due to the weak elaboration of the project implementation approaches and methods.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Provide a map with appropriate scale showing clearly the location of sites where pilot rehabilitation activities of degraded mangroves will be implemented by the project;
2. Further describe the economic aspects in relation to the oil industry, fishing and maritime port activities which could have an impact on the degradation of the Congolese mangroves;
3. Improve the stakeholder analysis by taking into account all stakeholders listed in Table 4, in view of ensuring their participation in the project implementation;
4. Improve the expected outcomes after project completion in correlation with amended outcome indicators of the specific objective;
5. Amend the logical framework matrix by improving the outcome indicators of the specific objective, which must be specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic and time-bounded;
6. Improve the implementation approaches and methods in relation to the above comment in the overall assessment;
7. Further elaborate the institutional set-up and organizational issues on how key stakeholders from Table 4 could be interacting in a partnership relation for the project implementation;
8. Revise the ITTO budget in accordance with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations, while ensuring the consistency with the implementation approaches and methods;
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the project aims to strengthen the capacities and skills of selected agroforestry groups involved in community forest management in the Department of Olancho in the product development and marketing of pine timber furniture. The Panel also noted that the strategy of the project seems to be fine with the engagement of appropriate agroforestry groups with the duration of 24 months and funds from ITTO not exceeding US\$200,000.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in the formulation of the proposal and the need to improve it in accordance with the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009). These include weak assessment of the institutional set-up and organizational issues; weak development of the stakeholder analysis and problem analysis; unclear stakeholders' involvement mechanisms. With regard to the budget, the Panel observed a number of inconsistencies between the budget section and the terms of references specified in Annexes. Given the importance of the intent of this project in a small-scale project approach, the Panel was of the view that, before its commending to the Committee, the proposal should be improved by incorporating the recommendations detailed below.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Refine Section 1.1 (Origin) by describing how the project will build on the outcome of agroforestry promotion initiatives of GIZ and ICF in the proposed project target area;
2. Adjust the title of Section 1.2.1 in line with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018. The conformity of the proposal can be improved by elaborating the expected contribution of the project to the implementation of the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests (2002);
3. Replace the map on page 5 and 10 with the map in Annex 3 to clearly indicate the target areas;
4. Improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects (Section 1.3) by further describing their aspects at the time of project identification with more appropriate information and data about the project area;
5. Revise Section 1.4 (Expected outcomes at project completion), taking into account the statements of the objective tree and the logical framework matrix;
6. Improve Section 2.1.1 (Institutional set-up) by further elaborating how the institutional set-up will contribute to the efficient implementation of the project;
7. Improve Section 2.1.2 (Stakeholders Analysis) by elaborating how the stakeholder analysis was carried out and how the stakeholders were involved in the analysis. Specify the "local communities and stakeholders" in the primary stakeholders. Rework the identification of the secondary stakeholders as international cooperation-donors and NGOs are too broad. Donors should be omitted as a secondary stakeholder due to their different role;
8. Improve Section 2.2 (Problem Analysis) by focusing on the problem in the target region while reducing problems of ICF. In the problem tree, there is the need to better elaborate the "Causes" as well as "Effects". Adjust the direction of all arrows to upwards in the problem and objective trees. Some of the effects are causes. The sub-cause of "There is a need to identify market niches" is a solution rather than a cause;
9. Improve the Logical Framework Matrix by clarifying whether the proponent is considering agroforestry "groups" or "organizations". Improve the impact indicators as they cannot be restricted to 'numbers' and 'percentage', there's the need for better indicators. Avoid numbers in the statements of the specific objective and outputs;

10. Make a consistent presentation of the number of the target agroforestry group between the specific objective (20 groups) and the problem analysis (10 groups). Better elaborate the idea of “learning by doing” in the statement of the specific objective. Provide more elaboration on the proposed marketing in Output 3. Provide information on whether pine timber are coming from plantations or natural forests in Part 1.3 Target area;
11. In the work plan, activities should be numbered according to the indicated in Section 3.2 (Activities and Inputs). As no activities are planned during the last quarter of the 2nd year, revise and eventually shorten the implementation period accordingly;
12. In Table 3.4 (Budget), review and adjust budget elements for Activity 2.3 (engagement of 6 forest technicians) and Activity 3.1 (engagement of a marketing consultant) so as to be consistent with the expenditure indicated as well as the work plan. In Activity 3.3, clarify the reason why the signing of an agreement requires so much expenditure. In the budget for the project management team and administrator (Activity 0), there is the need to adjust their budget source to the Executing Agency based on their TOR indicating they will be paid by ICF. Clarify why the project coordinator and administrator are only considered to be paid for 20 months and adjust accordingly;
13. Recalculate the ITTO's Programme Support Costs to the standard of 12% of the total budget costs. Make a consistent presentation of the total amount of the project budget between the cover page and Section 3.4 (Budget);
14. In Annex 2 (TOR), adjust the terms of reference accordingly so that the budget reflects it correctly. Provide an Annex showing “Tasks and responsibilities of key experts provide by the Executing Agency;
15. Improve Section 3.5 (Assumptions and Risks) by specifying potential risks which would be beyond the control of project management and mitigation measures to address the risks;
16. For effective implementation arrangements, better elaborate the required information regarding the EA and the stakeholders in Section 4.1.1 (Executing agency and partners). Revise the table of Section 4.1.2 according to what is reflected in the budget and TOR. Is the Administrative assistant the same as Administrator in the budget? If not justify. Provide more information on background of the Executing Agency in Annex 1 besides an organizational chart;
17. Improve Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) by specifying key stakeholders and their effective engagement during the implementation of the project;
18. Rework Section 4.2 (Monitoring and reporting) based on the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009); and
19. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of forest plantation development in the transitional zone of Ghana's Kpando Municipal Assembly, employing poverty reduction strategies with sustainable mixed and pure forestry plantations. However, the Panel noted that the Project Proposal did not clearly show its conformity with the objectives outlined in article 1 of the ITTA 2006, as it only mentioned those objectives without explaining how the project is linked to each of them. Similarly, it did not show its conformity with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, as strategic priorities were just mentioned without further explanation justifying the correlation with the project. The Panel also noted that most sections and sub-sections of the Project Proposal were either poorly elaborated or presenting technical weaknesses in relation to the requirements of the ITTO Manual for project formulation.

The Panel further noted that some critical sections of an ITTO project (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree and logical framework matrix) were simply copied with either minor changes or no change from another ITTO project implemented in Ghana, PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F). This is not acceptable as these sections should be specific to a target project and be the result of a consultation process with key stakeholders operating or having influence in that target project area where the project would contribute to address the identified key problem.

Given the abovementioned comments, the Panel was of the view that this proposal could not be considered as acceptable to continue in the ITTO project cycle. Therefore, the proponent should prepare a new Project Proposal by developing the most critical sections of an ITTO project (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree and logical framework matrix) through a consultation process with key stakeholders rather than copying them from other ITTO projects.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that a reformulation of the Project Proposal is essential and the Panel will need to assess the reformulated proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for appraisal.

PD 790/15 (F)

Improving Implementation of ITTO/ATO Standards in Ghana

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of improving the implementation of standards to be derived from the harmonized ATO/ITTO principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable management of African natural forests, in Ghana. However, the Panel noted weaknesses in many project sections and sub-sections, including the most critical ones for an ITTO budget (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, logical framework matrix, implementation approaches and methods, and budget).

The Panel also noted that it was questionable why the leadership of implementing the ATO/ITTO standards was undertaken by the Ghana national working group on forest certification, which is a platform for consultation among forest stakeholders, instead of a governmental institution like Ghana Forestry Commission which is in charge of implementing forest policies in Ghana. The Panel further noted that the voluntary guidelines for sustainable forest management was approved by the Fiftieth ITTC session and it was decided to update the ITTO criteria and indicator for sustainable forest management. The draft of ITTO criteria and indicator for sustainable forest management will be discussed at the Fifty-first ITTC session in November 2015. Subsequent to this updating process, the harmonized ATO/ITTO principles, criteria and indicators for sustainable management of African natural forests should be also updated in order to be consistent with the ITTO criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management. Therefore, the timing for the submission this Project Proposal is not appropriate.

Given the abovementioned comments, the Panel was of the view that the Ghana national working group on forest certification was not the right institution for the leadership regarding the implementation of ATO/ITTO standards, while the timing was not appropriate for the submission of this Project Proposal. Therefore, this proposal could not be considered as acceptable to continue in the ITTO project cycle.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Therefore, this project is taken out of the ITTO project cycle and cannot be resubmitted to the ITTO Secretariat by the proponent.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of the Project Proposal for strengthening the sustainable management of forest resources in Ecuador through improved forest monitoring systems. The Panel also recognized that the project target area involves 30% of 1,434,061.95 hectares of forests and native wild lands in Litoral (Coast), Andes and Amazonia (Amazon Region) under the National Programme of Incentives for Conservation which works with farmers and indigenous communities for the conservation and protection of their native forests and wild lands.

However, the Panel noted that, although participatory forest monitoring development was highlighted, the Project Proposal was not clear and did not provide sufficient information to assess the project's main elements adequately. The origin of the proposal did not discuss any lessons from the implementation of the national government's permanent monitoring mechanisms with the participation of forest sector stakeholders. The social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects were weakly presented with too general information. It was not clear about the expected outcomes at project completion. The Panel questioned about the engagement of Ecuador's National Forest Directorate, Under-secretariat of Natural Heritage, Ministry of the Environment as a primary stakeholder in the context of participatory forest monitoring system development. The problem analysis required further work to clearly identify the key problem and associated causes leading to weak forest monitoring systems. The issue of permanent sample plots should be elaborated in the problem analysis. Many components of the logical framework matrix, including the statements of the project's specific objective and outputs, were unclear. The Panel further noted a number of weaknesses of the proposal including weak presentation of the assumptions, risks and sustainability, and implementation arrangements. In particular, the Panel was not convinced of the sustainability and merits of the proposal because a very high proportion (86%, US\$1.2 million) of the total ITTO budget was allocated to the project personnel.

The Panel was of the opinion that the proposal needed substantial improvements in many elements of project design and formulation in particular with regard to the sustainability aspects to ensure the continuation and/or further development of the activities initiated by the project.

B) Conclusion

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

PD 794/15 (F)

**Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in
the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador**

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the Project Proposal to strengthen the conservation and sustainable use of mangrove forests in the southern province of El Oro which are under threat from poor governance and ecosystem management. The Panel also noted that the Executing Agency (HIVOS) had implemented a mangrove ecosystems restoration project in Ecuador funded by European Union.

However, in its appraisal of the proposal the Panel noted further improvements are needed to enhance the proposal, including more information on women's empowerment during the implementation of the project; consolidation of the two specific objectives into one in accordance with the guidance specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation (2009); and more inclusive stakeholder involvement mechanisms. With regard to the ITTO budget, the Panel pointed out that the ITTO's Programme Support Costs should be recalculated in accordance with the standard of 12% of the total budget costs.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Provide an additional map clearly showing the project area;
2. Make a reference to the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (2015) in Section 1.2.1 (Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities);
3. Improve the social aspects in Section 1.3.2 (Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects) by providing more demographic and social data for the people living in the project area. It is very useful to provide sex-disaggregated data in the context of promoting gender equity and women's empowerment;
4. Provide more information on the expected outcome resulting from the engagement of UOPPAO's Women's Association members during the implementation of the project;
5. In the logical framework matrix, consolidate the two specific objectives into one in line with the key problem specified in the problem tree;
6. Based on the revised specific objective, refine all Outputs in a concise way to ensure the achievement of the specific objective. There is the need to formulate the development of an integrate management plan as a separate output so that the implementation of the management plan can be facilitated as another output;
7. Provide information on potential forest products resulting from the implementation of the project activities in Output 1 and Activity 1.1 under Specific Objective 2;
8. Recalculate the ITTO's Programme Support Costs to the standard of 12% of the total budget costs;
9. Improve Section 4.1.3 (Project steering committee) by elaborating the main duties of the PSC;
10. Improve Section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) by specifying the membership and duties of the proposed consultative committee for its effective engagement during the implementation of the project;
11. Revise the objective tree in Annex 1 in line with the problem tree so as to support the presentation of only one consolidated specific objective; and
12. Include an annex that shows the recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of the project intending to contribute to the conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest landscapes in the Bamboutos highlands in Western Cameroon. However, the Panel noted weaknesses in many project sections and sub-sections: (1) project brief too much long; (2) origin of the project too lengthy and not focusing on the REDDES thematic programme pre-project which was implemented for the development of this project; (3) relevance to the ITTO objectives not focused to the most relevant ones while the relevance to the Strategic Priority 4 of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 was just mentioned without explaining how the project is linked to it; (4) target sites of the project not adequately indicated on different maps while the description of forests and soils was missing; (5) expected outcomes at project completion too ambitious regarding the capacity of a 3-year project to significantly mitigate the land degradation in the Bamboutos Mountains; (6) gender balance not taken into consideration in the stakeholder analysis as women are just mentioned without explaining what could be their roles and responsibilities in the project implementation; (7) no explanation provided in the logical framework matrix regarding the choice of 2025 as the timing for the impact indicators of the specific objective of this project; (8) development objective with the timing for its impact indicators established for 2025; (9) lack of consistency between the sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into activities in the objective tree) and activities listed under each output in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan; (10) payment of environmental services just briefly mentioned in the implementation approaches while not being taken into account in the problem analysis and associated problem tree and objective tree; (11) ITTO budget too high and not easy to be assessed due to the lack of consistency between the sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into activities in the objective tree) and activities listed under each output in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan, while many budget expenditures were questionable for their relevance or the level; (12) stakeholders involvement mechanisms not adequately described for this project having a large number of stakeholders identified.

In addition, the Panel was informed that the same executing agency had implemented the REDDES Thematic Programme pre-project RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (F) which contributed to collect and analyze information and data required for the preparation of this project. Therefore, the Panel questioned why some relevant findings and results of this pre-project were not taken into account during the formulation of this proposal, in order to avoid the abovementioned weaknesses.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Reduce the length of the project brief to 3 pages as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
2. Revise the origin of the project by focusing to the main findings and results of the completed pre-project RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (F);
3. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (compliance with ITTO objectives and priorities) by referring to the most relevant objective(s) of the ITTA of 2006 and to the most relevant strategic priorities of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018;
4. Provide a map of the target area with appropriate scale and clearly indicating the project sites;
5. Provide realistic expected outcomes at project completion which should be consistent with the revised outcome indicators of the specific objective;
6. Improve the stakeholders' analysis by adding aspects on gender balance dealing with the role and responsibilities of rural women in the target project area;
7. Revise the problem analysis and associated problem tree and objective tree while making while making sure to get consistency with activities to be listed under each output;
8. Readjust the logical framework matrix in accordance with the revised problem analysis and associated problem tree and objective tree while making sure to appropriately amend indicators, in particular the outcome indicators of the specific objective;
9. Subsequent to the sixth, seventh and eighth specific recommendations, appropriately redefine the development objective and specific objective, as well as their respective indicators;

10. Subsequent to the sixth, seventh and eighth and ninth specific recommendations, prepare a list of activities under each output in consistency with the objective tree;
11. Revise the Section 3.2 (strategic approaches and methods) in consistency with the redesigned problem analysis and logical framework matrix, while taking into account the main findings, results and lessons from the completed pre-project RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (F) and justifying some budget expenditures (expert in carbon stock, support executives, establishing local technical committees, vehicles and motorcycle too expensive, support to municipalities, implementation of advocacy campaign, etc.) ;
12. Prepare a work plan consistent with the redesigned problem tree and correlated objective tree, as well as with the logical framework matrix and implementation approaches;
13. Improve the Section 3.5 (assumptions, risks and sustainability) in accordance with the readjusted logical framework matrix;
14. Prepare the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Significantly reduce the ITTO budget either by transferring some budget costs to the counterpart contribution (facilitation/moderation, Point Focal/ITTO, support executives, establishing local technical committee and collaboration with university of Dschang, facilitation of mutual consultations, monthly office rent, accommodation, support to municipalities, advisory committee, EA's management costs, etc.) and also by deleting budget costs not justified in the problem analysis and implementation approaches (expert in payments of environmental services, all 2 vehicles or 1 vehicle, motorcycle, fodder crop, consultation meeting with stakeholders, organizing contests, pilot environmental services payment experience, etc.),
 - b) Add separate tables of budget by component for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart) while having both tables detailed at the levels of sub-items as done for the consolidated budget by component,
 - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year (instead of US\$20,000.00 per year) for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years),
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
15. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of the project for the participatory implementation of the mangrove master plan, which was prepared with the findings and results of the previous completed project PD 492/07 Rev.3 (F), in the Wouri River estuary, in Cameroon. However, the Panel noted weaknesses in many project sections and sub-sections, including the most critical ones for an ITTO budget (stakeholder analysis, problem analysis, logical framework matrix, implementation approaches and methods, and budget): (1) target sites of the project not adequately indicated on the map as well as the social, cultural, economic, environmental aspects missing for these project sites; (2) expected outcomes at project completion not consistent with the outcome indicators of the specific objective; (3) rural women and indigenous communities considered as a homogeneous group in the stakeholder analysis as well as municipalities, decentralized administrative bodies; (4) problem tree and objective tree not following the ITTO format; (5) logical framework matrix questionable due to the weaknesses of the problem analysis, problem tree and objective tree; (6) development objective and specific objective not clearly correlated to the problem analysis and not appropriately formulated; (7) most activities under Output 3 were not relevant to the ITTO mandate; (8) implementation approach questionable due to the weaknesses of problem analysis, problem tree and logical framework matrix; (9) work plan including many activities not correlated to the objective tree; (10) ITTO budget too high and not easy to be assessed due to the lack of consistency between the sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into activities in the objective tree) and activities listed under each output in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan, while many budget expenditures were questionable for their relevance or the level, while most of the ITTO funds were allocated to personnel; (11) assumptions, risks and sustainability questionable because of the weaknesses of problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree and logical framework matrix.

Given the above mentioned comments, the Panel was of the view that all critical components of an ITTO project were not appropriately elaborated by the proponent, making it impossible to consider this proposal as acceptable to continue in the ITTO project cycle. A completely new Project Proposal can be submitted while making sure to use the relevant information and data collected by the project PD 492/07 Rev.3 (F).

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Therefore, this project is taken out of the ITTO project cycle and cannot be resubmitted to the ITTO Secretariat by the proponent.

PD 799/15 (F)

**Gender Mainstreaming in the Development of Actions to Control
Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Central Africa**

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this sub-regional project aimed at gender mainstreaming in the development of actions to control deforestation and forest degradation in Central Africa. However, the Panel noted weaknesses in many project sections and sub-sections: (1) table of content with confusing numbering not following the ITTO format; (2) no reference number of the pre-project implemented to collect the information and data required for the formulation of this project in the Section 1.1 (origin of the project); (3) target sites of the project not adequately indicated on the map of each of the three countries to be covered by this project (Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo) as well as the social, cultural, economic, environmental aspects missing for these project sites where to implement forest rehabilitation activities; (4) expected outcomes at project completion not consistent with the outcome indicators of the project specific objective; (5) rural women and indigenous communities considered as a homogeneous group in the stakeholder analysis as well as municipalities, decentralized administrative bodies, while a sub-regional institution like COMIFAC was not included in the table of stakeholders; (6) the upper part of the problem tree (above the key problem) not following the ITTO format, while there was a lack of consistency between the lower parts of the problem tree and objective tree; (7) logical framework matrix questionable due the weaknesses of the problem analysis, problem tree and objective tree; (8) development objective and specific objective not clearly correlated to the problem analysis and not appropriately formulated; (9) lack of consistency between the sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into activities in the objective tree) and activities listed under each output in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan; (10) implementation approach missing information on the methods for forest rehabilitation activities; (11) work plan including activities not correlated to the objective tree; (12) ITTO budget too high and not easy to be assessed due to the lack of consistency between the sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into activities in the objective tree) and activities listed under each output in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan, while many budget expenditures were questionable for their relevance or the level, while most of the ITTO funds were allocated to personnel; (13) assumptions, risks and sustainability questionable because of the weaknesses of problem analysis, problem tree, objective tree and logical framework matrix; (14) the letter of endorsement of two other countries (Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo) missing.

In addition, the Panel was informed that the same executing agency had implemented the REDDES Thematic Programme pre-project RED-PPD 074/12 Rev.1 (F) which contributed to collect and analyze information and data required for the preparation of this project in Cameroon, Gabon, Central African Republic and Liberia). It questioned why two Central African countries (Central African Republic and Gabon), involved in the implementation of the above pre-project, were not part of this project.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Prepare an appropriate table of content consistent with the ITTO format and the content of the document;
2. Improve the origin of the project as required by the ITTO manual for project formulation and in correlation with the main findings and results of the completed pre-project RED-PPD 074/12 Rev.1 (F);
3. Provide a map having appropriate scale and clearly indicating the target project sites in each of the three countries to be involved in the project implementation, while adding the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of these target sites in each of these three countries;
5. Revise the expected outcomes at project completion in consistency with the outcome indicators of the specific objective;
6. Improve the stakeholders' analysis by breaking down the key stakeholders into categories in order to avoid considering each of them as a homogeneous group (rural women, indigenous communities, municipalities, decentralized government administrative bodies, etc.), while making sure to include each of these categories of each stakeholder in the table of stakeholders, as well as other relevant stakeholders;
7. Improve the problem analysis and associated problem tree and objective tree as required by the ITTO manual for project formulation, while making sure to get consistency with activities to be listed under each output;

8. Readjust the logical framework matrix in accordance with the improved problem analysis and associated problem tree and objective tree;
9. Subsequent to the sixth, seventh and eighth specific recommendations, appropriately redefine the development objective and specific objective, as well as their respective indicators;
10. Subsequent to the sixth, seventh and eighth and ninth specific recommendations, prepare a list of activities under each output in consistency with the objective tree;
11. Revise the Section 3.2 (implementation approaches and methods) in consistency with the improved problem analysis and readjusted logical framework matrix, while taking into account the main findings, results and lessons from the completed pre-project RED-PPD 074/12 Rev.1 (F) and also providing justification for main budget expenditures;
12. Prepare a work plan consistent with the improved problem tree and correlated objective tree, as well as with the readjusted logical framework matrix and revised implementation approaches;
13. Improve the Section 3.5 (assumptions, risks and sustainability) in accordance with the readjusted logical framework matrix;
14. Make sure to provide the letter of endorsement of the Project Proposal by the Government of two other countries to be involved in the implementation of this project (Democratic Republic of Congo and Republic of Congo);
15. Replace lengthy curriculum vitae (CV) with 1-page CV of key personnel to be provided by the executing agency;
16. Prepare the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Significantly reduce the ITTO budget by:
 - transferring some budget costs to the counterpart contribution (project coordinator, facilitators, local man power, office space, etc.),
 - deleting budget costs not justified in the problem analysis, implementation approaches and terms of reference (consultants, duty travel costs for consultants, forestry equipment, etc.),
 - b) Add separate tables of budget by component for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart) while having both tables detailed at the levels of sub-items as done for the consolidated budget by component,
 - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years),
 - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
17. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 802/15 (F)

Building the Capacity of Local Village Communities for the Restoration, Management and Governance of the Founou and Wani Forest Reserves in the Macina District, Segou Region, Mali

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the relevance of the Project Proposal intending to build capacity of local village communities for the restoration, management and governance of the Founou and Wani Forest Reserves in the Macina, Segou Region, Mali. However, the Panel noted weaknesses in some project sections and sub-sections: (1) relevance to the ITTO objectives not clearly explained for each relevant objective of the ITTA of 2006 as well as for each relevant strategic priority of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, in order to show how the project is linked to them; (2) target sites of the project not clearly indicated on the map not having the appropriate scale while the description of ecological and environmental aspects was not enough elaborated; (3) expected outcomes at project completion not consistent with the outcome indicators of the specific objective; (4) institutional set-up not appropriately described as recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation; (5) discrepancy between the figures of hectares to be rehabilitated mentioned in the impact indicators of the specific objective in the logical framework matrix and those mentioned in the expected outcomes at project completion, while outputs not separately presented in the logical framework matrix as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation; (6) development objective and specific objective not consistent with the objective tree; (7) lack of consistency between the causes and sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into outputs activities in the objective tree) and outputs and activities listed under each of them in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan; (8) work plan with activities not consistent with the problem tree and detailed at the level of sub-activities; (9) ITTO budget not easy to be assessed due to the lack of consistency between the causes and sub-causes of the problem tree (to be turned into outputs and activities in the objective tree) and outputs and activities listed under each output in Section 3.1 and also in the work plan, while some budget expenditures were questionable for their relevance or the level; (10) Curriculum vitae of key project personnel provided by the executing agency missing.

In addition, the Panel was informed that the same executing agency had implemented the TFLET Thematic Programme project TFL-SPD 038/13 Rev.3 (M) dealing with forest governance in correlation with forest land degradation in the same Region of Segou, in Mali.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Improve the Section 1.2.1 (compliance with ITTO objectives and priorities) by adding the appropriate explanation under each relevant objective of the ITTA of 2006 and each relevant strategic priority of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018;
2. Provide a map of the target area with appropriate scale and clearly indicating the project sites;
3. Improve expected outcomes at project completion while ensuring the consistency with the outcome indicators of the specific objective;
4. Improve the institutional set-up in accordance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation;
5. Revise the logical framework matrix in accordance with the problem analysis and associated problem tree and objective tree while following the format for the outputs and making consistent the figures mentioned in the outcome indicators of the specific objective with those in the expected outcomes at project completion;
6. Subsequent to the above fifth specific recommendation, appropriately redefine the development objective and specific objective, as well as their respective indicators;
7. Subsequent to the above fifth and sixth specific recommendations, prepare a list of activities under each output in consistency with the objective tree;
8. Prepare a work plan consistent with the problem tree and correlated objective tree, as well as with the logical framework matrix and implementation approaches;
9. Add 1-page curriculum vitae of each key personnel to be provided by the executing agency (project coordinator, assistant forest technician and community development assistant);

10. Prepare the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Reduce the ITTO budget by transferring some budget costs to the counterpart contribution (project coordinator, office rent, office automation equipment, telephone/fax, etc.) and also by deleting budget costs not justified in the problem analysis, implementation approaches or terms of reference (national consultants, rehabilitation work, forest fencing work, travel costs by vehicle for US\$42,000 and by motorcycle for US\$4,860 while a vehicle should be purchased for the project implementation, etc.),
 - b) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years),
 - c) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of 12% of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

11. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PPD 182/15 (F)

Supporting Protected Area Communities in Afram Plains to Engage in Integrated Management of Charcoal and other Economic Timber Species in Community Lands (Ghana)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of the proposal dealing with the support to the protected area communities in Afram Plains in order to engage in integrated management of charcoal and other economic timber species in community lands, in Ghana. The Panel noted that referring to charcoal could be misleading those assessing as the production of charcoal is among the most important causes of forest degradation in a country like Ghana. The Panel also noted that the origin and justification of the Pre-project Proposal were well explained in relation to the relevant findings and results of the completed project PD 30/97 Rev.6 (F) which was implemented in other regions of Ghana by the same executing agency. There was some confusion due to the lack of consistency between the duration mentioned on the cover page and the duration used for the work plan, budget and terms of reference.

However, the Panel further noted that there were weaknesses in the following sections and subsections: (1) the reference to charcoal in the development objective and specific objective questionable due to the lack of clear explanation how it is linked to the forest rehabilitation of the future project target area; (2) there was no mention to more efficient charcoal production technology (improved kiln for carbonization) and charcoal utilization techniques (improved cook stoves) aiming to reduce fuelwood waste in the preliminary problem identification; (3) there were some discrepancies in the amounts budgeted for organizing workshops in relation to the number of participants; (4) the curricula vitae of key personnel to be provided by the executing agency were too lengthy.

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Remove the reference to charcoal in the pre-project title, development objective and specific objective;
2. Clarify if the pre-project duration is six (6) or twelve (12) months and adjust it in relevant pre-project sections and sub-sections if appropriate;
3. Improve the pre-project Section 2.2 (preliminary problem identification) by adding some reference to more efficient charcoal production technology (improved kiln for carbonization) and charcoal utilization techniques (improved cook stoves) aiming to reduce fuelwood waste;
4. Reduce to 1-page the length of the curricula vitae of key personnel, to be provided by the executing agency, which should summarize the information regarding the four important elements recommended by the ITTO manual for project formulation;
5. Readjust the ITTO budget in accordance with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations; and
6. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form, while making sure to add the pages indicating where to find elements addressing the overall assessment and specific recommendations in the revised version of the Project Proposal document. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the proposal dealing with the development of payment for environment services schemes for local community groups and private developer forest plantations in degraded lands, in Ghana. The Panel noted that the origin and justification of the Pre-project Proposal were well explained in relation to the overall assessment of specific recommendations of the 48th Expert Panel meeting on the Project Proposal PD 757/14 (F). However, the Panel also noted that there were weaknesses in the following sections and sub-sections: (1) no explanation provided under each objective of the ITTA of 2006, considered as relevant for the future project, in the Section 1.2 (conformity with ITTO's objectives and priority); (2) difficulty to understand the development objective to which the future project would contribute, due to the use of abbreviations not explained in list of abbreviations and acronyms; (3) the positive correlation between the payment for environment services and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands was not clearly described in the preliminary problem identification while the benefit tree ownership schemes were not clearly explained for different land tenure status in Ghana; (4) ITTO budget too high while the counterpart contribution is too low (less than 1%).

B) Specific Recommendations

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

1. Improve the conformity with ITTO's objectives by adding the appropriate explanation under each relevant objective of the ITTA of 2006;
2. Improve the formulation of the development objective by explaining the abbreviations included in it;
3. Improve the preliminary problem identification with the inclusion of elements demonstrating the positive correlation between the payment for environment services and rehabilitation of degraded forest lands, as well as with further explanation regarding the benefit tree ownership schemes for different land tenure status in Ghana, in relation to the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands;
4. Add a list of all abbreviations and acronyms used in the Pre-project Proposal;
5. Prepare the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations and also in the following way:
 - a) Significantly reduce the ITTO budget by:
 - transferring some budget costs to the counterpart contribution (project coordinator, technicians, supporting staff, driver),
 - deleting budget costs not justified in the problem analysis, implementation approaches and terms of reference (international consultants, duty travel costs for international consultants, meals, field visits, communication, cost benefit analysis, biophysical data collection, incentives to local communities),
 - reducing significantly some budget costs and provide correlated explanation in the implementation approaches (fuel, office supplies),
 - b) Add separate tables of budget by component for each source of funding (ITTO and counterpart) while having both tables detailed at the levels of sub-items as done for the consolidated budget by component, and;
6. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form, while making sure to add the pages indicating where to find elements addressing the overall assessment and specific recommendations in the revised version of the Pre-project Proposal document. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Pre-project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Pre-project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel considered the modifications contained in the revised proposal in response to the comments and recommendations made by the Forty-ninth Expert Panel. The Panel noted that the revised proposal satisfactorily addressed partly of the comments and recommendations. However, further improvement to the proposal is necessary in order to fully address the comments and recommendations.

The Panel opined that gender specific indicators must be highlighted in the revised proposal. The newly adopted ITTO SFM Guidelines may be referred. More information on the state of the art of the gall rust research outcomes must be added and referred in the project implementation.

The Panel also noted that the budget contribution of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines must be increased at the level of at least 10% of the total budget.

B) Specific Recommendations

In order to fully comply with the conditions of Category 1, the proposal shall be revised taking into account the following:

1. Improve the presentation of the map of the project site. Include clear legends of the map;
2. In Section 3.1, improve the presentation of the Section with the correct numbering and harmonize the listed activities with the activities presented in the master budget table (note: wording and number of activities are different) ;
3. In Section 3.4, amend the budget arrangement. Budget allocation for Activity 2.5 (clonal plantation establishment) is considered too expensive. Elaborate the details of the administrative cost (15%);
4. In Section 3.5, elaborate more about Risk;
5. In Section 4.1.2, explain how the project management team work and interact among themselves; and
6. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 50th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that this is the first Project Proposal submitted by the Government of Vietnam to ITTO. The Panel acknowledged the importance of the project idea for contributing to the improvement of Vietnam's wood processing industry and trade.

The Panel noted that the Project Proposal is not in full conformity with the ITTO manual for project formulation. Therefore, the Panel considered that careful revision of the Project Proposal, in accordance with the ITTO manual, is deemed necessary.

The Panel was of the view that, in order to increase the chance of a successful project, the project's specific objective should be broadened to cover the need to encounter both market and resources problems. The whole Project Proposal should be modified and further reviewed so as to incorporate the recommendations detailed as below.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Shorten the Project Brief in accordance with the ITTO Manual for project formulation;
2. Improve the presentation of the map of the project site. Include clear legends of the map in English;
3. In Section 1.2.1, quote relevant ITTO's objectives and priorities from ITTA 2006 and ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018 and elaborate how this project will contribute to the achievement of them;
4. In Section 1.3, include Sub-section of Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects;
5. In Section 1.4, refine the expected outcomes in accordance with the ITTO manual;
6. In Section 2.1, improve the stakeholder analysis by indicating how these stakeholders were identified. Include other relevant ministries, such Ministry of Trade and Industry. Follow the ITTO manual in formulating this Section;
7. In Section 2.2, enhance the problem analysis by detailing the problems encountered;
8. Reformulate the problem tree and the objective tree in accordance with the ITTO manual;
9. Rewrite the development objective and the specific objective in accordance with the ITTO manual. Please note that the Project Proposal must have only one specific objective;
10. Reformulate the project's outputs and activities as exactly as the ITTO manual (note: such Activity 2.4 in the current version of the Project Proposal should not be listed as the project's activity);
11. Reformulate the budget arrangement in full conformity with the ITTO manual. The project's budget may be increased to accommodate direct cost for data collection and training for local officers;
12. In 4.2, clarify that the established project steering committee is for the internal purpose of the Executing Agency. Please refer to the eligibility of establishment of the project technical committee for a small project; and
13. Include an Annex which shows the recommendations of the 50th Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 788/15 (I)

Achieving Sustainable Forest Management through Enhanced Competitiveness of Small & Medium Wood Industries (SMWIs) in Ciamis District of West Java Province, Indonesia (Indonesia)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the importance of the Project Proposal to help improve forest industry situation in West Java Province.

The Panel commented that the Project Proposal needs to be improved by refining the origin which will appropriately justify the importance to implement the project. Discuss more on the status of planted land as sources of raw materials, logs quality, and the existence of illegal logging in the market.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Section 1.3.1, elaborate more on the description of the project's geographic location;
2. In Section 1.4, explain on how the project will deal with illegal trade;
3. In Section 2.1.2, explain how the stakeholders were identified and how the role of farmers in the project implementation;
4. In Section 2.2, rephrase the development objective in accordance with the ITTO Manual for project formulation;
5. In Section 3.1.1, revisit the indicators of the outputs (note: indicator 1.d is not applicable);
6. In Section 3.1.2, revisit the activities (note: Activities 2.2, and 2.5 are not clear);
7. In Section 3.2, refine the implementation approaches and methods to ensure the attainment of the project objectives;
8. In Section 3.3, improve the work plan for effective and efficient implementation of the project's activities;
9. In Section 3.4.1, clarify the provided capital item in Activity 2.2 (note: it is considered too expensive). Clarify the contents of the training package. Increase the budget for ITTO monitoring & review to USD20,000.00;
10. In Section 3.5.2; elaborate more on the sustainability of the project and how the stakeholders involvement will ensure the sustainability;
11. In Section 4.3, discuss more on how the project results could be effectively disseminated; and
12. Include an Annex which shows the recommendations of the 50th Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of undertaking the study on market for balsawood so as to generate local development processes in terms of timber production, timber processing and the sale of resulting products in the domestic and international markets.

The panel noted that the Project Proposal has substantial weak points and difficult to evaluate since a number of sections, in accordance of ITTO manual for project formulation, are missing. Furthermore, the proposal does not properly explain its conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities.

The Panel also noted that the budget arrangement of the Project Proposal was not properly formulated accordingly to the ITTO manual.

The Panel suggested the proponent of the Project Proposal to formulate a new Project Proposal on the study of balsawood by referring the research results of the Australian Center for Agricultural Research.

The panel also suggested the proponent to fully follow ITTO manual for project formulation when formulating a new Project Proposal due to the fact that there are many missing essential elements in the current proposal, such as logical framework and objective tree, as well as inconsistency in the calculation of the budget arrangement.

B) Conclusion

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

PD 751/15 Rev.1 (M)

Sustainable Forest Management in the Chimbo River Basin, Ecuador: Conserving Forest Resources and Agroforestry Systems as a Mechanism to Strengthen the Economic Inclusion of Community Families, Particularly Rural Women, Settled in the Area (Ecuador)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to improve the economic inclusion of families, especially women, through the protection of livelihoods and landscape, tourism, conservation and agroforestry production systems.

The Panel noted that the revised Project Proposal was significantly improved and most issues were addressed in accordance with the assessment and specific recommendation of the previous EP meeting. The revised proposal was clearly structured and well formulated in conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities and focused on restoration and reforestation for providing livelihoods for community families, particularly women.

However, the Panel further noted that the Project Proposal could be further improved in some sections and sub-sections and suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose. For instance, problem analysis as well as the development and specific objectives were not in right format and need further improvement; the objectives indicators were insufficiently and clearly elaborated; the budget structure and items need further justification; the TORs for experts and consultants need clarification and modification accordingly, etc.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Use the correct problem tree format according ITTO Manual for project formulation;
2. In Section 2.2, list the development objective and specific objective in text rather than using a table and add the indicators for development objective;
3. Improve the indicators for the development and specific objectives with quantitative qualities;
4. In Output 1 Activity 4, clarify that partnerships with DAGs for the purchasing of plants for protection actions if the implementer assumes that the DAGs will purchase 100% of the plants (or make sure what percentage of the plants. If a large percentage, a letter of intent between the implementer and the DAGs should be provided);
5. Revise the workplan so as it reflects the duration of each Activity in conformity with the Logical Framework;
6. Revise budget structure by moving budget items 15.1-15.5 in personnel to Miscellaneous (60). Moreover, remove national management costs and include costs for ITTO monitoring and review and ex-post evaluation;
7. In 4.1.3, the representative of ITTO will be from ITTO Secretariat;
8. Clarify why the budget for project coordinator and agroforestry technician were included in the ITTO budget but listed in Annex2 under experts provided by the EA. As the project coordinator and the agroforestry technician will be from the staff of SENDAS, thus they cannot be paid by the ITTO;
9. Remove the 'reporting schedule' chart, as ITTO has specific submission dates for the reports and, in what concerns the Steering Committees, these are usually scheduled according to the availability of all the involved parties.
10. TORs for consultants in Annex should be closely in line with those sub-items in the budget tables;
11. Add TOR for sub-contracts.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the Project Proposal was previously submitted to the 49th Panel. Therefore, the current proposal is considered as the Revision 1 of PD 758/14 (M) which consequently has one more chance to be appraised by the Panel.

The Panel opined that the project's title should be refined by focusing on legality aspect of the timber trade in Ghana rather than the sustainability aspect. With this refocusing, the project will fully support the Ghana's efforts to implement the VPA with the EU.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Project Brief, explain how the gender issues be addressed in the project implementation. Describe also the budget structure of this Project Proposal;
2. Improve the presentation of the map of the project site. Include clear legends of the map;
3. In Section 1.4, synchronize the paragraph with its elaboration in the Project Brief and add information on gender statistics;
4. In Section 2.1.2, improve the description of stakeholders analysis in full conformity with guidance provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation;
5. In Section 2.1.3, enrich the discussion of problem analysis with the current situation of FLEGT/VPA implementation in Ghana;
6. In Section 2.1.4 and refer also to Section 2.2.1, refine the indicators of the development objective by inclusion of gender specific indicators and increase the domestic supply of wood to 50%. Remove the elaboration of activities from the LFM;
7. In Section 2.2.2, synchronize the listed indicators with the indicators listed in the LFM;
8. In Section 3.1.1; synchronize the number of outputs (6 Outputs) with the outputs depicted in the objective tree (3 Outputs);
9. In Section 3.1.2, simplify the wording of the activities so that specific activities could easily be understood (note: number of the project's outputs in this section are different with previous elaboration in other sections);
10. In Section 3.2, rephrase the paragraphs that clearly indicate how the project be implemented;
11. In Section 3.3, revise the work plan in accordance with the ITTO manual (note: missing column 'responsible party');
12. In Section 3.4, rewrite the budget formulation and avoid miscalculation. Budget for ITTO monitoring and evaluation should be included;
13. In Section 3.5.2, improve the elaboration of risk with table presentation;
14. In Section 4.1.2, rephrase the paragraph accordingly to the ITTO manual;
15. In Section 4.1.3, include ITTO and donor representatives;
16. In Section 4.3, distinguish between women and marginal group;
17. In Section 4.3.2, elaborate more on how to mainstreaming the project's result globally (such as through ITTO website), regionally and locally;
18. Move Annex 4 to the Section 2.1.2; and
19. Include an Annex which shows the recommendations of the 50th Panel and the respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 793/15 (M)

Expanding Responsible Forest Management and Trade in the Ecuadorian Amazon Region as a Strategy to Promote Social and Economic Growth and Reduce Tropical Forest Degradation and Deforestation (Ecuador)**Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel**A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to promote forest land management in the Kichwa and Siekopai communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, in order to ensure the flow of legal and sustainable timber to the local forest industry and as a strategy to consolidate a traceability mechanism and enforce a generic standard for the certification of forest product origin that is under implementation by the Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador.

However, the Panel noted the weaknesses in the overall formulation of the proposal, especially in the sections and sub-sections of project origin and location, conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, expected outcomes, the stakeholders and problem analysis, logical framework, development and specific objective and their indicators, outputs and activities, strategic approach and methods, the project budget, and implementation arrangements.

The Panel also noted that the key problem was not clearly identified with encroachment of deforestation and degradation of forests, which is not closely related to the need for formulation of such a project. Furthermore, the problem analysis was weak and lack of logical links between the causes, problems and effects.

The Panel also noted that the expected outcomes, objectives, outputs and activities tried to ambitiously cover all aspects but appeared not focused with consistency.

The Panel also noted that the development and specific objective were not well formulated based on the weak problem analysis and its indicators had not reflected the impact and outcome of the project. Moreover, the design for outputs and activities were imprecise and not feasible.

The Panel further noted that the budget tables were not well formulated and did not follow the ITTO format, of which the budget for ITTO was particularly not clear and reasonable.

Nevertheless, the Panel appreciates the potential of this project and encourages the proponent to reformulate the proposal by taking into account the above comments.

B) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to assess the current status of natural populations and trees outside forests of *Swietenia macrophylla* in Ecuador based on a participatory approach.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses in relevant sections and sub-sections, especially the project origin, target area, institutional set-up, the stakeholders and problem analysis, development and specific objective and indicators, outputs and activities, strategic approach and methods, the project budget, sustainability and implementation arrangements.

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

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Provide more information in the Origin section, particularly in relation to the relevant completed and ongoing ITTO projects;
2. Add more sufficient information of the project regions and the targeted area should be clearly identified in the map;
3. Improve the institutional set-up with description about coordination with indigenous groups;
4. Refine the stakeholder analysis by including academic and consumer stakeholders and elaborate how they will be involved in the project;
5. Restructure the problem analysis with a clear key problem and its logical links with causes and effects;
6. Refine the indicators for development objective and specific objectives with quantitative and time-bound elements;
7. Reformulate the outputs and activities in line with the objectives;
8. In implementation approach and method, clarify why participatory approach is adopted;
9. Use the correct budget tables for budget by activity and component in accordance with the format contained in ITTO Manuals. ITTO budget needs specific and detailed items;
10. Significantly reduce the budget for personnel and make sure such budget will be in line with the TORs of the personnel, particularly for 15.1-19;
11. Clarify the high budget for items such as 41 premises and 61 sundry;
12. Include ITTO monitoring and ex-post evaluation cost in the budget;
13. Provide clear elaboration on how the outputs and outcomes of the project will be sustained after the completion of the project.
14. The representative of ITTO should be from ITTO Secretariat rather than the focal point.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 796/15 (M)

Establishing a Forest Statistics Collection, Storage and Dissemination Management Unit in Cameroon (Cameroon)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the Project Proposal aimed at establishing a forest statistics collection, storage and dissemination system in Cameroon.

The Panel noted that the origin of the project, the relevance, the targeted area and the rationale are in accordance with the ITTO objectives and priorities as well as with the needs to strengthen statistics collection in Cameroon.

However, the Panel noted a number of weaknesses and/or inconsistencies in the Project title, Activities, Work plan, Budget and Reporting and Evaluation.

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

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Revise the Project Title as the aim of the project should be the establishment and implementation of collection, storage and data dissemination system instead of the establishment of a management unit, a unit being under the sole responsibility of the hosting Government.
2. Revise the *Social, Cultural economic and environment aspects* (section 1.3.2) in accordance with the ITTO Manual by using concise and specific wording which is relevant to the Project Proposal.
3. Rephrase and reorganize the Activities by suppressing elements which cannot be considered as activities. For example, Activity 1.1 ("*to organize the project launching workshop*") and Activity 1.3 ("*to support experience-sharing meetings between the various structures*") are not activities *per se*, workshops and meetings being the actual activities. The same principle applies to Activity 3.4 ("*to acquire and install the equipment*") which cannot be considered as an Activity in itself.
4. Revise Activity 3.1 ("*to appoint the project team*") as the project team should be appointed before the project starts and it should be stated clearly in the Project Proposal. As a consequence, Activity 3.1 cannot be considered as an activity.
5. Revise the Work plan and the Budget since activities listed in Section 3.1 (*Outputs and Activities*) were not consistent with the ones listed in the Work plan and the Budget.
6. Revise the Work plan to make it more consistent and more detailed within the Activities.
7. Reformat the Budget using the latest format included in the ITTO Manual.
8. Downsize the Budget by excluding some capital goods which could be instead given in kind by the hosting Government. Delete budget item of "42.3. Medium-sized office table" as this is not reasonable and refurbishing the project facilities is not a project issue. Moreover, staff expenses could be lowered if the host Government could assign and support financially staff to the project.
9. Revise Section 4.2, *Reporting, Review monitoring and Evaluation* using the ITTO Manual. The First disbursement is only due after the Inception Report has been submitted and approved by ITTO.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the Project Proposal aimed at strengthening the access to information of forest management in order to improve forest governance and institutional capacities building.

The Panel noted that the Project Proposal is in conformity with the ITTO objectives and priorities since dissemination of information is fundamental to proper forest governance.

However, the Panel noted inconsistencies and weaknesses in the Project Proposal in the title and key problem. Moreover, the Panel sought clarification on the involvement of the national governments on the project implementation and on their support in kind to the World Resources Institute.

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

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Revise the title of the project focusing on strengthening the dissemination of the information only since the Project Proposal covers only the improvement of the information quality and its dissemination; the improvement of the governance being secondary in the Project Proposal.
2. Clarify how and why these three countries were chosen and what benefits could be sought from this international cooperation in section 1.3 (*target area*). Also clarify why these three countries were chosen instead of other neighboring countries which might have the same issues/problems.
3. Revise the key problem of the project document in section 2.1.3 (*problem analysis*) clarifying what the problem is and how it was identified. Figure 1 and figure 2 of section 2.1.3 should be redesigned including the redefinition of the key problem. Figure 2 should also include 2 specific objectives as 2 objectives are mentioned in section 2.1.4 (*logical framework matrix*).
4. Clarify whether the information gathered from the project will be available to other countries or just the host countries in section 2.1.4 (*logical framework matrix*). Also clarify how the information will be kept and updated once the project is completed.
5. The Panel noted that downsizing of the budget was possible by hiring consultants to improve efficiency and reducing the share of the staff funding in the project.
6. Clarify the implication of the host governments and their national Research Institutes in the *organizational structure and stakeholder participation mechanisms* (section 4.1) especially in section 4.1.1 and 4.1.2. Include these clarifications in the *project management chart* (section 4.1.4).
7. Specify what will be included in the support in kind by the three hosting countries.
8. The Panel noted that international coordination and experience learning could be sought from other countries such as Guatemala and Papua New Guinea in Section 4.3.2 (*mainstream of project learning*). Also, information could be retrieved through the technical documents available on the ITTO website from the ITTO projects implemented in these countries.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the Project Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised Project Proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

PD 801/15 (M)

Building the Capacity for Forest Law Enforcement and Local Governance in the Industrial and Commercial Use of Wood and Timber in the Segou Region, Mali (Mali)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the Project Proposal aimed at building capacity for forest law enforcement and local governance in the industrial and commercial use of wood and timber in the Segou region in Mali.

The Panel noted that the Project Proposal is in conformity with the ITTO objectives and priorities. However, the Panel was of the view that the proposal was too broad with too many outputs and activities and should be more focused.

The Panel questioned the feasibility of the outcomes which are too numerous and ambitious. The Panel strongly advised to downsize the objectives and specify the outcomes. Moreover, the Panel strongly advised to follow the ITTO guidelines and Manual for Project Proposal formulation as the format used is inconsistent with the required format for Project Proposal.

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

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Refine the target area (section 1.3) to the Segou region only as the project aims to build/strengthen governance in Segou only.
2. Refine/precise the expected outcomes (Section 1.4) by limiting the outcomes to specific targets and clear results. The outcomes need to be more explicitly specified, wording being too vague or unclear.
3. Refine the stakeholder analysis (section 2.1) specifying explicitly what each stakeholder will do and how it will benefit from the implementation of the project.
4. Include a logical framework matrix by using and following the ITTO manual for Project Proposal. The Project Proposal format used in this current proposal is a small Project Proposal format which is inconsistent with the current Project Proposal.
5. Specify how objectives and outcomes are directly linked to each other. Propose clearer and feasible objectives.
6. Revise the work plan (section 3.4) as the activities presented are inconsistent with the activities presented in section 3.2 (*activities and inputs*).
7. Clearly specify the participation of the Executing Agency and its support to the project as well as the project management team and its implication in the project.

C) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to strengthen the capacity and knowledge of forest sector stakeholders so as to ensure the implementation of improved forest management and conservation practices through the development and dissemination of research in Guatemala.

However, the Panel noted the weaknesses in the overall formulation of the proposal, especially in the sections and sub-sections of project conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, the problem analysis, development and specific objective and their indicators, outputs and activities, the project budget, and implementation arrangements, etc.

The Panel noted that the proposal followed small project format, therefore the ITTO budget should be under \$150,000 according to the Manual for project formulation.

The Panel also noted that the proposal only listed relevant ITTO's objectives and priorities but did not elaborate how this project will contribute to the achievement of them.

The Panel also noted that it was unclear how research is structured in the country and how the research society was involved in the project formulation and will participate in the implementation process.

The Panel further noted that the problem analysis was weak and lack of logical links between the causes, problems and effects and it was not clear how the proponent came up with the development objective and specific objective, the outputs and activities.

The Panel also noted that the development and specific objective were too wide and not focused based on the weak problem analysis and its indicators had not reflected the impact and outcome of the project.

The Panel also noted that there was no clear and logical links between objectives, outputs and activities.

The Panel also noted that the design for outputs and activities were imprecise. For Activity 1.2, there was no justification why this is needed; for Activity 1.4, there was questioned the need to print the National Forest Research Programme; for Activity 2.5, there's a doubt of such a workshop.

The Panel further noted that the budget tables were not well formulated.

The Panel also noted that there was no info on the project management but on CONESFORGUA. It has to be better explained the system on carrying out projects and managing project funding.

Nevertheless, the Panel appreciates the potential of this project and encourages the proponent to reformulate the proposal by taking into account the above comments.

B) Conclusion

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

PD 804/15 (M)

Processing and Marketing of Timber from Secondary Species in Remaining Forests Outside Protected Areas in Peten as a Strategy to Reduce the Pressure on Endangered CITES-listed Forest Species (Guatemala)

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this small project is to improve local marketing skills through the value-added production of timber products from secondary species of remaining forests outside protected areas in the Department of Peten of Guatemala.

However, the Panel noted the weaknesses in the overall formulation of the proposal, especially in the sections and sub-sections of conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, the stakeholders and problem analysis, development and specific objective and their indicators, outputs and activities, strategic approach and methods, the project budget, and implementation arrangements.

The Panel also noted the title and wording "secondary species" were under common understanding tree species in secondary forests and the proposal obviously referred to "lesser-known-/used-species".

The Panel also noted that a project brief was missing and in section of conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, the proposal specifically elaborated consistency with ITTO TP/TMT program and CITES program which are not closely relevant to this project.

The Panel also noted that the required sub-section 1.3.2 Socioeconomic and cultural contexts and 1.3.3 Environmental context were missing.

The Panel also noted that the key problem was not clearly identified in relation to the need for formulation of such a project and the problem analysis was weak in logical links between the causes, problems and effects.

The Panel also noted that the objectives, outputs and activities appeared not focused and lack of logical links and consistency. Furthermore, the development and specific objective were not well formulated based on the weak problem analysis and its indicators had not reflected the impact and outcome of the project.

The Panel further noted that the budget tables were not well formulated and almost all substantial works were allocated to subcontractors.

Nevertheless, the Panel appreciates the potential of this project and encourages the proponent to reformulate the proposal by taking into account the above comments.

B) Conclusion

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

Assessment by the Fiftieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to build the capacity of the MINFOF in project formulation for expanding the potential projects funding for the sustainable management of forest and wildlife resources in Cameroon.

However, the Panel noted that the ITTO project formulation should be the basic role and function of the national governments of the ITTO member countries. Additionally, the regional ITTO office can provide relevant assistance if necessary.

Finally, the Panel noted that the participants of the regional and national workshop for project formulation conducted in 2011 in Cameroon could provide the necessary assistance regarding project formulation in case of need for support.

B) Conclusion

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

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