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**COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

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

Item 1 - Opening of the Session

The Forty-ninth Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF) was opened on 17 November 2015, in the morning, by Dr. M. Nurudeen Iddrisu (Ghana). The CRF Session adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document CRF(XLIX)/1 Rev.1. The Joint Session was convened in the afternoon to consider agenda items 4, 6, 8 of CRF as contained in document CRF(XLIX)/1 Rev.1. The list of participants is presented in document ITTC(LI)/Info.2.

Item 2 - Adoption of Agenda and Organization of Work

The agenda for the CRF as contained in document CRF(XLIX)/1 Rev.1 was duly adopted. To ensure all agenda items are covered within the limited time allocated to the Committee, the Chairperson of the CRF proposed to organize the Session in the following order: Item 3, Item 5, Item 9, Item 8 (B), Item 10, Item 7, Item 11, Item 12, Item 13, Item 14 and Item 15.

Item 3 - Admission of Observers

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

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

The Joint Session of All Committees considered the reports of the Expert Panel for Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals presented by its Chairperson, Ms. Marjukka Mähönen (Finland), as contained in documents ITTC/EP-49 and ITTC/EP-50, respectively.

The presentation highlighted the following:

- A total of fifty-seven proposals were appraised in 2015, including 54 project proposals and 3 pre-project proposals;
- The great majority of proposals (70%) were submitted under RFM, 19% under ESM and 11% under FI;
- Eighteen (18) proposals were accorded category 1, twenty-two (22) proposals were category 2, and seventeen (17) proposals were accorded category 4;
- Proposals were mainly foreseen to be executed by government agencies, but also to a lesser extent by NGO, and local community organizations addressing the various needs of the countries at the national, regional, and local levels;
- Most project proposals dealt with rather conventional themes for ITTO. The panel noted the submission of a few transnational proposals; and
- The Panel noticed that gender issues are generally not being incorporated in project proposals.

The presentation also highlighted general findings and recommendations of the Expert Panel at its Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Meetings, particularly regarding proposal preparation and project design to be addressed by the proponents.

Many of the delegates expressed concern over the lack of capacity of proponents in formulating good project proposals. They also questioned the apparent lack of effort by Focal Points and ITTO Regional Representatives in many member countries to guide the proponents. There is a need for additional training of countries on proposal preparation by the Secretariat. Several delegates from producer member countries noted the need for increased funds to be made available in order to undertake project formulation training.

Item 5 – New Projects and Pre-Projects

The Committee noted the projects and pre-projects that were approved under the time-bound electronic no objection procedures to accept Expert Panel ratings and circulated to member countries pursuant to Decision 6(XLIII), as contained in document ITTC/EP-49, following the recommendations of the Expert Panel at its Forty-ninth Meeting as follows:

Forty-ninth Expert Panel

Category 1:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 748/14 Rev.3 (F)	Building Capacities and Meaningful Stakeholder Participation in Forest Governance to Contribute toward Sustainable Forest Management and Improved Livelihoods of Forest Dependent Communities in Honduras and Guatemala	Honduras-Guatemala
PD 754/14 Rev.2 (F)	Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin	Benin
PD 762/14 Rev.2 (F)	Developing and Implementing Improved Management Practices that Maintain and Enhance Forests and Biodiversity Protection, to Support SFM within the Context of Multiple Use in Guyana's Forest Dependent Communities	Guyana
PD 765/14 Rev.2 (F)	Development of a Forest Landscape Restoration Program for Guatemala Based on ITTO Guidelines	Guatemala
PD 772/15 Rev.1 (F)	Improved Application of Growth and Yield Models to Forest Management Planning in the Amazon Basin	Brazil
PD 773/15 Rev.1 (F)	Restoration and Maintenance of Environmental Services in Moist Tropical Pasture Lands - Criteria and Techniques for the Introduction and Use of Native Trees	Mexico
PD 778/15 Rev.1 (F)	Sustainable Forest Management, Conservation of Biological Diversity and Promotion of Landscapes for Socio-Ecologic Production in Indigenous Territories of the Uwalcox Micro-Watershed in Guatemala's Western Altiplano	Guatemala
PPD 178/14 Rev.2 (F)	Support to the Creation of Green Belts around the Waza, Benoué, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda National Parks	Cameroon

Category 4:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 730/14 Rev.2 (F)	Implementing Actions for the Prevention of Forest Fires in Colombia	Colombia
PD 749/14 Rev.2 (F)	Reforestation and Development Project for the Messa Mountain Range and the Forest Reserves of the Yaounde Metropolitan Area	Cameroon
PD 767/15 (F)	Strengthening Forest Management in Honduras Through Sustainable Development in the Forest Regions of Atlantida (Broadleaved Forests) and Francisco Morazan, Olancho and Yoro (Coniferous Forests)	Honduras
PD 768/15 (F)	Pilot Project for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of High-Value Traditional Timber Forest Species in Honduras	Honduras

The Committee also noted the following projects and pre-projects which were approved under the time-bound electronic no objection procedure to accept Expert Panel ratings pursuant to ITTC Decision 6(XLIII), as contained in Document ITTC/EP-50, following the recommendations of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals at its Fiftieth Meeting held in Yokohama, Japan on 27-31 August 2015.

Fiftieth Expert Panel

Category 1:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 774/15 Rev.2 (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

PD 775/15 Rev.2 (F)	Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico	Mexico
PD 777/15 Rev.2 (F)	Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders	Indonesia
PD 785/15 Rev.1 (F)	Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics	Mexico
PD 794/15 Rev.1 (F)	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador	Ecuador
PPD 182/15 Rev.1 (F)	Supporting Protected Area Communities in Afram Plains to Engage in Integrated Management of Economic Timber Species in Community Lands	Ghana

Category 4:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 782/15 (F)	Susa Range Forest Restoration Project	Ghana
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
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
PD 790/15 (F)	Improving Implementation of ITTO/ATO Standards in Ghana	Ghana
PD 792/15 (F)	Participatory Forest Monitoring as a Strategy to Strengthen the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in Ecuador	Ecuador
PD 798/15 (F)	Sustainable and Participatory Management Project for the Mangrove of the Cameroon Estuary	Cameroon

Item 6 – ITTO Annual Market Discussion -2015

The Committees noted the summary of the ITTO Annual Market Discussion – 2015, held in the Joint Session of All Committees on 18 November 2015, as contained in Appendix A. The theme of the Market Discussion was “Raising the Profile of Tropical Timber in the Market Place”. Mr. Barney Chan (TAG Coordinator) and Dr. Manoel Sobral Filho (Director, UNFF Secretariat) co-chaired the Market Discussion.

The following feature presentations were made during the Market Discussion:

Dr. Wu Shengfu
Vice President
China National Forest Product
Industry Association

“Expanding Green Consumerism in China – An Opportunity to Raise the Profile of Legal and Sustainable Tropical Timber”

Ms. Cindy Squires
Esq. Executive Director
International Wood Products Association (IWPA)

“Trends Affecting Acceptance and Demand for Tropical Timber in North America”

Mr. Ahmad Shah
Programme Director
CTCS (Certified Timbers and Credible Suppliers)

“Raising the Profile of Tropical Timber in the Malaysian Domestic Market”

Mr. Barber Cho
Advisor
Myanmar Forest Products Merchants Federation

“A New Chapter Opens for the Myanmar Timber Industry”

Mr. André de Boer
Secretary General
European Timber Trade Federation

“Raising the Profile – A One-Stop Website for the Tropical Timber Trade”

A special presentation on “Strengthening the Participation of the Private Sector in Advancing ITTO’s Objectives” was made by Dr. James Gasana.

The Committees further noted the statement of the Trade Advisory Group (TAG) presented during the Market Discussion as contained in Appendix B of CEM-CFI(XLIX)/4.

Item 7 - Report on Completed Projects and Pre-projects

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

The Committee then proceeded to review the following completed projects:

7.1 Completed Projects

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

The Committee took note that this project has contributed towards the rehabilitation of the degraded forest lands in Minas Gerais, Brazil. The Executing Agency, the State Forest Institute of Minas Gerais, has submitted a proper Completion Report and several Technical Reports. These and other means of verification are available from the Executing Agency and/or the ITTO Regional Officer for Latin America upon written request. The project’s documented products and outputs will also be posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and can be further downloaded from there. The Executing Agency also submitted a Final Financial Audit Report, an Official Notification relinquishing the last ITTO disbursement of US\$ 50,000, and further reimbursed ITTO the unspent amount of ITTO funds it had in the project account. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

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

The Committee took note that this project has significantly contributed towards the establishment of healthy cedar and mahogany plantations via the development of proper pest control techniques, and thus creating more jobs and increasing the standard of living of the forest communities in Mexico. The Executing Agency has submitted the project completion report, several technical reports and the final financial audit report. The project’s documented products and outputs will be posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and can be further downloaded from there or requested directly from the Executing Agency upon written request. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

3) PD 377/05 Rev.3 (F) Development of Cloning for Samba (Obéché), West African Mahogany and Tiokoué Tree Species (Côte d’Ivoire)

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to had contributed to the establishment of a programme of cloning and seedling production technique improvement aimed at accelerating the development of *Obeche/Samba*, *West African Mahogany* and *Tiokoue* industrial plantations. The project’s lessons and results could be considered as a good opportunity for the mass production of high quality seedlings of OBÉCHÉ/SAMBA, AFRICAN MAHOGANY and/or TIOKOUÉ species through the techniques of vegetative propagation cuttings, for distribution in Cote d’Ivoire and in the neighbouring West African countries.

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

4) PD 419/06 Rev.3 (F) Forest Seeds Management and Conservation (Côte d’Ivoire)

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to the rehabilitation of Côte d’Ivoire’s degraded forest lands through the development of a seed supply system having the capacity to provide high-quality products to meet the needs of the national forest rehabilitation stakeholders. The

project's lessons and results could be considered as a demonstration that the early involvement of key stakeholders, right from the beginning of the project implementation and after clearly defining their roles and responsibilities in relation to the project's objective and expected outputs, was crucial for the successful project execution.

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

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

The Committee took note that the project created a participatory process of forest management for the rational use of production forests in the North and Northeast areas of the Department of Antioquia, Colombia and contributed to the integrated socioeconomic development and environmental protection in that region. The Executing Agency has submitted the project completion report, several technical reports and the final financial audit report. The project's documented products and outputs will be posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and can be further downloaded from there or requested directly from the Executing Agency upon written request. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

6) PD 519/08 Rev.1 (F) Tropical Forest Conservation for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Carbon Stocks in Meru Betiri National Park, Indonesia

The Secretariat reported on the completion of the project. The Committee noted that the implementation of the project had contributed to the improvement of the management plans of Meru Betiri National Park (MKNP) for conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, including MRV systems to reduce emissions from forest degradation and to increase the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks. Effective involvement of the local community in the MKNP had been explored in relation with the design and implementation of REDD+ and MRV for carbon accounting. The Committee also noted that REDD+ in the MKNP represents a REDD+ demonstration project in conservation area in the country and that various technical reports resulting from the project are available on the ITTO and the Executing Agency's websites.

The Delegation of Indonesia expressed her gratitude to the donor, 7&i Holdings Co. Ltd (Japan) for financing the project and to the Secretariat for effective guidance for the implementation of the project. She noted that there are many useful lessons from the implementation of the project including rehabilitation of degraded forests inside the MKNP. The Committee further noted that the Executing Agency had submitted the completion report and the final audited financial statements to the ITTO Secretariat in accordance with the project agreement signed with ITTO. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

7) PD 534/08 Rev.1 (F) Small-Scale Private Mixed Plantations Development PLUS Nutrition Promotion: The Case of Six Rural Community Women's Groups in the Eastern and Ashanti Regions of Ghana: Phase II

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to empower six rural women groups with the aim of providing livelihood by cultivating small-scale individually-owned mixed plantations of commercial indigenous timber species of Wawa (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*) and Ofram (*Terminalia superba*), in combination with *Moringa oleifera* and *Tectona grandis*. From the project's lessons and results, it could be considered that the project had served as an eye-opener for relevant forest stakeholders in Ghana regarding rural reforestation activities, with the involvement of women groups, for the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands while using the abovementioned tropical tree species combined with crops, in the Ashanti and Eastern Regions of Ghana.

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

8) PD 584/10 Rev.2 (F) Implementing the Cooperative Framework between ODEF and the Stakeholders for the Effective Participatory and Sustainable Management of the Eto-Lilicope Forest Complex (Togo)

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to implement the sustainable and participatory management of the Eto-Lilicope Forest Complex through the collaboration framework established between the main stakeholders for the consensual and sustainable management of the Eto-Lilicope Forest Complex. According to the main project's lessons and results, it was noted that the use of local/native languages, during the sensitization campaigns, had facilitated the communication with key stakeholders, in particular with local communities, for a common understanding of the objective and aim of the project. This contributed to facilitating the involvement of local communities in the implementation of some project activities.

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

9) PD 586/10 Rev.1 (F) Operational Strategies for the Conservation of Tengkwang Genetic Diversity and for Sustainable Livelihood of Indigenous People in Kalimantan (Indonesia)

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to lead to the improvement of the biodiversity conservation of Dipterocarps especially Tengkwang species and related livelihood of indigenous people in order to contribute to stopping the depletion process of Tengkwang species genetic diversity in Indonesia.

The delegation from Indonesia expressed their sincere gratitude to the project donors (Japan, Korea and USA) for providing the financial support to this project which contributed to the genetic conservation of the Tengkwang species with the involvement of local communities. They also thanked the Secretariat for the appropriate guidance which contributed to the smooth implementation of this project. These local communities have been involved in project activities contributing to provide livelihood to them through the harvesting and processing of Tengkwang non-timber forest products, even after the project completion.

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

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

The Committee took note that this project contributed to the sustainable management of Guatemala's tropical forests via the development and application of community-based integrated fire management practices. The Executing Agency has submitted the project completion report, several technical reports and the final financial audit report. The project's documented products and outputs will be posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and can be further downloaded from there or requested directly from the Executing Agency upon written request. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

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

The Committee took note that the project had significantly contributed in improving the living standards of the Molinopampa Rural community in the northern region of Peru through the production, diversification and marketing of native tropical timber species, using innovative mechanisms and practices. The Executing Agency has submitted the project completion report, several technical reports and the final financial audit report. Copies of the Completion Report and other technical documents are available either upon written request from the Secretariat or can be downloaded in digital format via the online project search engine on

ITTO's website at: <http://www.itto.int> or at IIAP's website: <http://www.iiap.org.pe>. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

7.2 Completed Pre-project

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

The Committee took note that the implementation of this pre-project has contributed towards the formulation of a project proposal for forest fire prevention, bringing together community and other local actors to identify problems and solutions, leading to the protection of forests and ecosystem services. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the completion report, technical reports and final financial audit report had been delivered by the implementing agency in accordance with the Pre-project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the pre-project as completed.

Item 8 - Ex-post Evaluation

(A) Ex-post Evaluation Reports

The Chairperson of the joint session of the Committees informed the Committees that the following five thematic groups and associated seven projects were selected for ex-post evaluation by the Committee of Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF) at its Forty-seventh Session:

1) Thematic Group Evaluation: Biodiversity Conservation / Conservation Areas

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

2) Thematic Group Evaluation: Community Participation in SFM

PD 32/99 Rev.2 (F) Productive Forest Management for the Rural Reserve Area of Guaviare (Colombia)

PD 405/06 Rev.3 (F) Extending the Area under Sustainable Forest Management in the Forest Lands of the Embera-Wounaan Comarca, Darien, Panama

PD 482/07 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Production and Conservation with Community Participation in the Chepigana Forest Reserve of Darien, Panama

3) Thematic Group Evaluation: Plantation Establishment

PD 396/06 Rev.2 (F) Strategy for Developing Plantation Forest: A Conflict Resolution Approach in Indonesia

4) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Fire

PD 284/04 Rev.2 (F) a) Fire-Management and Post-Fire Restoration with Local Community Collaboration in Ghana
b) Thematic assessment of all completed projects on forest fires and their use and /or implementation of the ITTO Forest Guidelines on Fire Management Tropical Forests (1997)

5) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Governance

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

At its Forty-eighth Session of the CRF, the results of the ex-post evaluations for the following two thematic groups and associated two projects were reported:

- Thematic Group of Biodiversity Conservation / Conservation Areas; and

- Thematic Group of Plantation Establishment.

At this joint session of the Committees, therefore, the results of the ex-post evaluation for the remaining five projects under three thematic groups were reported, as follows:

- PD 32/99 Rev.2 (F), PD 405/06 Rev.3 (F) and PD 482/07 Rev.2 (F) under the Thematic Group of Community Participation in SFM;
- PD 284/04 Rev.2 (F) under the Thematic Group of Forest Fire; and
- PD 493/07 Rev.1 (F) under Thematic Group of Forest Governance.

Thematic Group Evaluation: Community Participation in SFM

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

The consultant, Mr. Carlos Marx Carneiro (Brazil), made a presentation on his ex-post evaluation report on this project as contained in document CRF(XLIX)4. He indicated that the projects had basically been successfully implemented in a participatory manner with the communities involved. He also proposed a number of recommendations including:

- a. The need for similar projects in the future indicating that they will continue to play an important role for the region and recommended the formulation of a regional or sub-regional project on the matter to increase the level of information of community based forestry and share knowledge among countries of the region.
- b. The Objectives of such future projects should generate impacts on social, economic and environmental aspects and strengthen the "Agricultural Family Units" generating additional income, improving their livelihoods and guarantee food security.
- c. Innovative approaches/designs for projects of community participation in SFM. Some such "less traditional" approaches refer to services provided by the forests to the communities such as ecotourism, environmental services including the carbon market and most strategies related to climate change and deserve some more attention in future projects.
- d. Appropriate target groups strongly emphasizing the communities' social components.
- e. The organizational aspects of the projects. The structures of the projects depends greatly on the beneficiaries and the most efficient structure still seems to be the "project based structure" where the project manager has a considerable level of authority and control the project resources; personnel are specifically assigned to the project and report directly to the project manager.
- f. Follow-up and evaluation practices are evidently necessary. The consultant indicated the need for follow up for the three projects and a sub-regional project would highly benefit the country members as it would increase the level of knowledge sharing in community forestry practices.

The consultant indicated the need for mid-term evaluations for medium and large projects and highlighted the need for ex-post evaluation observing that they should be carried out a maximum of three years after project termination; after this period the project memory will be gradually lost.

The Delegation of Cote D'Ivoire requested some explanation from the consultant regarding the governance structures versus sustainability, which was properly commented by the consultant. The Committees commended the consultant for his report and presentation.

Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Fire

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

The consultant, Dr. Johann Goldammer (Germany), made a presentation on his ex-post evaluation report on this project as contained in document CRF(XLIX)/5a. He indicated that the project had basically been

successfully implemented with the specific objective achieved through determining the relationship between the utilization of resources by rural communities and effective management fire, determining the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in fire management, developing the mechanisms for effective community-based fire management, and identifying gaps in existing legislation on community-based fire management. The project had also contributed to rehabilitating gradually fire-degraded forest lands by using valuable species in the project target areas located in the Ashanti and Eastern Regions of Ghana. He also proposed a number of recommendations including:

- Establishment of a rural fire management extension unit after a consultation of relevant stakeholders (government, private sector and civil society representatives);
- Conduct a socio-economic study which should deal with the impacts of fire management measures in the project target areas (land-use, types of crops, livelihood, demography, migration, etc.) and the principles and incentives for the creation and sustaining of Fire Volunteer groups in rural areas;
- Creation of synergies in advancing fire management capabilities in West Africa through the establishment of a regional fire management resource center for West Africa and a regional West Africa Wildland Fire Network.

The delegation of Ghana commended the consultant for his report and presentation, thanked the donors for their support to implement this project which contributed to the improvement of fire prevention and management in Ghana with the involvement of relevant stakeholders.

b) Thematic assessment of ITTO fire-related projects

The consultant, Dr. Johann Goldammer (Germany), also made a presentation on his report regarding the thematic assessment of ITTO projects on forest fire as contained in document CRF(XLIX)/5b. He indicated that the history of response of ITTO to the accelerating problems of fire use and wildfires in tropical forests goes back to the 1980s and shows an increasing involvement by addressing basics, i.e. assessment of damages, development of options for rehabilitation of fire-damaged forests and development of national and international guidelines on fire management. Based on these experiences and the collective advances in fire management during the 1990s and the early 2000s the ITTO has supported a number of member countries in building fire management capacities.

ITTO projects have established models to support the building of national-to-local fire management capabilities in several ITTO member countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. National and international fire management guidelines have helped in developing concepts, policies and implementation strategies in fire management. The development of national fire management policies, associated with legal frameworks and implementation strategies, is now at the top of the agendas of many countries.

The assessment of the projects supported by the ITTO reveals that – based on the insight and experience gained over the past two decades – the organization may consider continuing its involvement and supporting in furthering capacity building in fire management in its member states. For that purpose, the consultant made the following main recommendations:

- The needs, objectives and approaches for similar projects in the future should be in relation to international policies and concerted action on the capacitation of nations to address the challenges in fire management;
- Appropriate target groups should be identified and involved in a holistic fire management approach;
- From projects to process through the development of regional fire management centers based on lessons learned from other international institutions dealing with wildfires;
- Technical guidebook, that would address the issue of climate change in relation to tropical forests, should be prepared as a complementary document to the current ITTO guidelines on fire management in tropical forests.

In the future, ITTO may also consider supporting cross-boundary and regional cooperation in fire management. Bilateral and multilateral cross-boundary cooperation in response to wildfire emergencies could also be enhanced through active participation in the International Wildfire Preparedness Mechanism (IWPM), which constitutes an additional toolbox for capacitating countries in wildfire emergency preparedness and creating efficient and safe interoperability in managing wildfire crises by cross-boundary cooperation.

The Committees commended the consultant for his report and presentation.

Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Governance

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

The consultant, Mr. THANG Hooi Chiew (Malaysia) made a presentation on his ex-post evaluation report on this project as contained in document CRF(XLIX)/6. He noted that the specific objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity of the Forestry Administration of Cambodia (FA) and partners to conduct its law enforcement operations in the forestry sector to reduce unlawful forest land clearing and land encroachment, and illegal logging. He highlighted that at project completion, the needed equipment and facilities for effective conduct of forest patrolling had, to a greater extent made available; capacity of the FA staff at different levels to conduct forest patrolling and to properly document forest crimes had been significantly improved; and collaboration between the FA Cantonments and the provincial prosecutors and judges had also been strengthened. The sustainability of the project was assured as the FA had formulated a follow-up strategy to continuously implement critical activities on FLEG. He highlighted a number of recommendations for FA including: revise and update the four training modules periodically to reflect new tools and techniques in forest crimes investigation; establish joint coordination mechanisms between the FA Cantonments and the Royal Prosecutors and Judges to resolve forest crimes cases; and develop incentive schemes for local communities to further gain their support to assist the FA in curbing illegal forest activities.

The delegation of Cambodia thanked the donors, namely the governments of Japan, Republic of Korea, United States of America and Australia for supporting the project in Cambodia. He also informed the Committees that the sustainability of the project after ITTO intervention will be continuously strengthened under the "Forest Law Enforcement and Governance" program of the National Forest Program 2010-2029.

The Committees commended the consultant for his report and presentation.

(B) Selection of Projects for Ex-post Evaluation

According to Decision 3(XXVIII), "Ex-post Evaluation of Projects", the Committees are requested to consider as candidates for ex-post evaluation all individual projects or group of projects completed in 2012 or thereafter. The Committee considered the list prepared by the Secretariat as indicated in document CRF(XLIX)/7 in application to its decision and select projects or groups of projects for ex-post evaluation for the period 2016-2017.

The Committee established a working group consisting of delegates representing Brazil, Sweden and USA, and the Secretariat, to consider the selection of projects for ex-post evaluation. The working group chaired by Mr. Bjorn Merckell (Sweden) noted the selection criteria in connection with Decision 3(XXVIII). In reviewing the thirty-two projects listed in the list under eleven themes, the attention of the working group was given to the following:

- a) ITTO budget of individual projects or groups of projects above an appropriate level (e.g. USD 400,000);
- b) Clear benefits to be derived from learning more about facts, achievements and difficulties during project implementation and completion;
- c) The potential for wider application of lessons learned;

The working group's report was considered by the Committee, which approved the following projects for ex-post evaluation by thematic group as follows:

1) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Management / Inventory

PD142/02 Rev.2 (F)	SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION OF NATIONAL FORESTS UNDER THE "REGIME OF FOREST CONCESSIONS	BRAZIL
PD248/03 Rev.4 (F)	ANTIMARY FOREST MANAGEMENT REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER	BRAZIL
PD438/06 Rev.2 (F)	SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR THE FOREST PRODUCTION AREA OF THE NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN REGIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTIOQUIA, COLOMBIA	COLOMBIA

2) Thematic Group Evaluation: Biodiversity Conservation / Conservation Areas

PD165/02 Rev.3 (F)	CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY THROUGH	MALAYSIA
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SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

PD288/04 Rev. 2 (F)	DEVELOPMENT OF LANJAK ENTIMAU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AS A TOTALLY PROTECTED AREA, PHASE IV (FINAL PHASE)	MALAYSIA
PD451/07 Rev.1 (F)	TRANSBOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AREA: The PULONG TAU NATIONAL PARK, SARAWAK STATE, PHASE II	MALAYSIA

3) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Rehabilitation / Landscape Restoration / Secondary Forest Management

PD372/05 Rev.1 (F)	CONTRIBUTION TO FOREST REHABILITATION IN THAILAND'S AREAS AFFECTED BY THE TUSNAMI DISASTER	THAILAND
PD501/08 Rev.1 (F)	PROMOTING HOUSEHOLD REFORESTATION IN TROPICAL ZONE OF SOUTHWESTERN CHINA THROUGH DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION OF HOUSEHOLD-ORIENTED TECHNIQUES	CHINA

4) Thematic Group Evaluation: Improvement and Conservation of Genetic Resources

PD054/00 Rev.4 (F)	GENETIC RESISTANCE OF IROKO TO PHYTOLYMA LATA - PHASE II	COTE D'IVOIRE
PD377/05 Rev.3 (F)	DEVELOPMENT OF CLONING FOR SAMBA (OBEICHE), WEST AFRICAN MAHOGANY AND TIOKOUÉ TREE SPECIES	COTE D'IVOIRE
PD419/06 Rev.3 (F)	FOREST SEEDS MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION	COTE D'IVOIRE

5) Thematic Group Evaluation: Teak

PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F)	EX-SITU AND IN-SITU CONSERVATION OF TEAK (<i>Tectona grandis</i>) TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (MYANMAR)	MYANMAR
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- a) Ex-post evaluation of PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F)
- b) Thematic assessment of all completed projects on Teak in cooperation with TEAKNET, IUFRO, FAO, and other relevant organizations/institutions.

Item 9 - Policy Work

The Committee considered the progress in the implementation of the following policy-related matters:

- (i) **Promote the publication, dissemination and application of the revised ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Activity 4, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(L)] [PP-A/49-292] [CRF(XLIX)/8].**

The Committee was briefed by the Secretariat on the progress of implementation of (i) the publication of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (SFM) in the three official languages of ITTO for wider distribution; and (ii) the organization of three regional capacity building workshops to promote the understanding of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines aimed at encouraging country-level initiatives. The Committee noted that the Guidelines for SFM had been published in English (500 copies), French (200 copies) and Spanish (200 copies) separately as ITTO Policy Guidelines and posted on the ITTO website for wider distribution. A total of 500 copies of a wooden USB memory stick loaded with the Guidelines for SFM were produced along with standing posters. The Voluntary Guidelines have been disseminated to key stakeholders in ITTO member countries and made available at international events including the 2015 World Forest Congress in September and the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference in Pyeongchang, Korea in October 2015.

On the organization of three regional capacity building workshops on the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines, the Secretariat informed the Committee that the first regional workshop was organized in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 17-20 August 2015 with the cooperation of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia, the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia and the Forest Research Institute, Malaysia. The

key outcomes of the first regional workshop were presented by Dr Ismail Parlan, Senior Research Officer, Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). He reported that the workshop was attended by a total of 24 participants from forestry agencies of eight (8) member countries in Asia-Pacific region namely; Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines and Viet Nam. He highlighted the presentations made by resource persons and the country reports as well as the presentation of three working groups to discuss the issues of (i) governance and security of tenure; (ii) environmental services; and (iii) financing and investment.

The Delegation of Malaysia commended the work of organizing the first regional workshop in Kuala Lumpur and noted that more technical and financial assistance is vital for the effective implementation of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for SFM. For the organization of the second and third regional workshops for Africa and Latin America/Caribbean regions in 2016, the Secretariat highlighted that there is the need for this activity to be provided with the necessary financing to organize the two remaining regional workshops. The Committee noted the importance of organizing the two remaining regional capacity building workshops in Africa and Latin America/Caribbean regions in 2016 in accordance with the BWP 2015-2016.

(ii) Contribute to national and international efforts in the prevention and management of fire in tropical timber-producing forests [Activity 14 (b), ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 6(XXXIII)] [PP-A/50-300]

The Committee recalled that Activity 14 (b), ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 6(XXXIII) [PP-A/50-300] made provision for ITTO to contribute to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Global Wildland Advisory Group, and the related Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) / Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), and provide support for the Africa, Asia, and Latin America Regional Wildland Fire Networks and other inter-institutional cooperation efforts in their preparatory meetings for the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in 2015 in South Korea, and further organize a side-event and support the attendance of up to 18 participants from producer member countries implementing ITTO fire-related projects to present and interchange experiences at the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference to be held in 2015 in South Korea.

The Secretariat reported to the CRF that ITTO provided support to 14 participants from ITTO member countries to attend the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference held at Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, in October 2015. Moreover, all the aforementioned participants gave presentations on the achievements in forest fire management and prevention through ITTO projects and/or the ITTO guidelines on fire management in tropical forests in their respective countries, be it in the Parallel, Regional or Global Sessions of the Conference, or at a Side-Event organized by ITTO specifically to disseminate the achievements of ITTO projects related to fire management and prevention.

With the implementation of these aforementioned activities, the Secretariat informed the CRF that almost all funds related to Activity 14 (b) of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 had been exhausted and therefore all undertakings related to this Activity 14 (b) have reached their end. However, Activity 14 (a) of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016, which is related to reviewing and updating jointly with FAO the ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests and the FAO Fire Management Voluntary Guidelines to take into account scientific insights into the state of forests and forest protection in the tropics in the last 15 years and the progress made in fire management and climate change research and development globally is still pending the finance for its implementation.

The Committee also took note the Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) had reiterated its wish that ITTO continue to provide support and further collaborate both technically and financially in its future endeavors.

In this light, ITTO will continue to seek support for the regional networks in the tropics of Africa, America and Asia and will continue to pursue potential partnerships to develop a tropical forest fire prevention and management programme with a view towards, among others, updating its forest fire guidelines with a view towards incorporating elements related to REDD, climate change mitigation and poverty alleviation.

(iii) Promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems [Activity 10, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(L)] [PP-A/50-298] [CRF(XLIX)/9]

The Secretariat updated the Committee on the implementation of this activity which includes the

organization of an international mangrove conference in 2016 to review action in supporting mangrove forests taken by ITTO and other organizations. The Committee noted that the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) was engaged to report on mangrove-related activities and projects undertaken by ITTO and others as well as to recommend on ITTO's future mangrove strategies and action plans. The report from ISME has been documented as CRF(XLIX)/9 "Promoting the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Ecosystems".

The consultant, Prof Baba from the ISME, introduced the study's outcomes. He noted that since 1989, ITTO has implemented many important mangrove-related projects and activities including the publication of World Atlas of Mangroves as an international mangrove reference. He said that the recent meeting of UNESCO adopted a decision to proclaim the 26 July as the new International Day for Conservation of Mangrove Ecosystem. On future ITTO mangrove strategies and actions, he highlighted a number of recommendations including: updating the ITTO Mangrove Work Plan 2002-2006; building capacity for conservation of mangrove ecosystems and sustainable management of mangrove forests; and monitoring the status of protected and rehabilitated mangrove areas. He noted that organizing an international mangrove conference in 2016 is a timely important opportunity for ITTO to strengthen cooperation with partners in formulating and implementing collective mangrove initiatives for future generations.

The Secretariat highlighted that funds need to be provided for the organization of this conference in 2016. It is proposed that the conference in 2016 will be organized with the support of many partners and it is hoped that an announcement of this conference will be made shortly so as to enable the efficient organization of the conference.

The Delegation of USA commended the consultant for his presentation and noted the absence of mangrove projects in Africa region in his slides. She recalled the lively discussion on mangrove projects in Latin America which was presented to the Committee at its 47th session in Gabon. She encouraged the organization of an international conference on mangroves in 2016 and noted potential interest of external organizations such as US development agencies engaging in the conservation and sustainable management of mangroves in Indonesia. The Delegation of Indonesia looked forward to the organization of an international mangrove conference in 2016 in Indonesia. The Delegation of Cameroon appreciated the inclusion of mangrove in the BWP 2015-2016 and highlighted the challenges of sustainably managing mangrove ecosystems with engagement of various stakeholders in Cameroon and the importance of solving conflicts over sustainable management of mangroves. The Delegation of EU supported the organization of an international mangrove conference in 2016 and recommended further analysis of possible collaboration with other organizations on mangrove ecosystems.

(iv) Undertake a survey to assess the use of the various ITTO guidelines on the sustainable management of plantations, secondary forests, biodiversity and natural forests in the tropics [Activity 50, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(L)] [PP-A/50-309] [CRF(XLIX)/10]

The Secretariat updated the Committee on the implementation of the activity which includes the design and conduct of an on-line survey on the use of ITTO policy guidelines with the engagement of an international consultant, Dr. Tim Cadman, Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law at Griffith University (Australia). The consultant, Dr Cadman said that: the on-line survey deployed between 1 July and 30 August 2015 in separate English, Spanish and French version; received 463 attempts and 286 completions; 75% were male; the majority were from research/education organizations, and national agencies; and climate change/REDD+; forest & plantation management and governance of resources were the principle activities of survey respondents.

On views of ITTO policy guidelines for developing & implementing SFM, Dr Cadman said that forest governance and security of tenure were regarded as most important issues for achieving SFM in the tropics while lack of training/capacity building was identified as the single largest difficulty faced by all respondents. He noted that managing natural resources assets sustainably was identified as the universal goal most relevant to the development and implementation of ITTO policy guidelines. He then highlighted a number of recommendations including: more guidance on ensuring stakeholder representation in SFM such as private sector in future guidelines and climate change and forest governance in the future C&I; capacity building & training and further research to determine different regional needs/priorities.

During the discussion, the Delegation of USA questioned the narrow base in survey respondents and the C&I-related recommendations in the presentation. She noted further that the survey was focused largely on forest management C&I although the policy guidelines covered many aspects of tropical forests, including

biodiversity. Dr Cadman responded that the private sector and other non-state actors compromised approximately 30% of survey respondents and that there is a recommendation to expand sectoral and gender representation in the report.

The Delegation of Cameroon noted the apparent conflict between the non-binding nature of the policy guidelines and the emphasis on legality in other policy processes such as FLEGT. In response, Dr. Cadman observed the voluntary objectives in the policy guidelines and legally binding instruments could be complimentary and that ITTO's contribution to the forest policy community was its focus on encouraging SFM in the tropics. Regarding an enquiry on scope of forest governance in SFM from the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire, Dr Cadman noted further that the emphasis placed by ITTO on sustainability in forest governance have positive effects in other policy processes.

The Committee commended the consultant for his report and the presentation.

(v) Strengthening cooperation and collaboration between ITTO and ACTO countries on C&I and related topics, including the outcomes of a regional workshop to harmonize ITTO C&I and the Tarapoto Process [Activity 47, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2008-2009 / Decision 2(XLIII)] [PP-A/34-131B] [CRF(XLIX)/11].

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

- Under Activity PPA-34-131B, support has been provided to the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) to elaborate a Harmonized ITTO-ACTO C&I for SFM. In this light, Government Representatives from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Surinam and Peru, among others, are participating in the Harmonization of Criteria and Indicators of Tarapoto and ITTO.
- The harmonization process seeks to integrate both sets of C&I in an attempt to generate information that can guide public managers on the effectiveness and efficiency of measures aimed at forest management. At the regional level, the generation of reports is recognized as a useful practice for the dialogue around sustainable development, to highlight the challenges and opportunities for management under a regional vision and to identify areas of cooperation which should be strengthened.
- The National Delegates participated at several workshops to elaborate on the Harmonization of the ACTO/ITTO C&I and the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO has currently submitted to ITTO and its member countries the final set of harmonized C&I for some last comments and adjustments before publicly launching the initiative. The aforementioned document, entitled CRF(XLIX)/11 "Criteria and Indicators for Sustainability of the Amazon Forest" was made available to the delegations.

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

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

- For the implementation of the first step of this Activity, national case study reports had been finalized, for all three tropical timber producing regions, as well as the photos of sites covered by the case studies were taken, and submitted to the Secretariat:
 - For Ghana (Africa): Multidisciplinary Team (Dr. Dominic BLAY as Team Leader, Dr. Beatrice OBIRI and Dr. Mark APPIAH as members) which was already involved in the implementation of a previous ITTO FLR-related Activity in Ghana;
 - For Indonesia (Asia-Pacific): Dr. Hiras SIDABUTAR; and
 - For Mexico (Latin America): Dr. David DOUTERLUNGNE (within the framework of cooperation between BirdLife International and ITTO).
- Regarding the second step, the implementation of this Activity had been undertaken by the World Resources Institute (WRI) for the preparation of a joint WRI-ITTO Issue-Brief on forest landscape restoration, as well as a leaflet, based on the findings and results of the three abovementioned national

case study reports.

- The consultant, Dr. Kathleen BUCKINGHAM, from WRI, made a presentation on the joint WRI-ITTO Issue-Brief on forest landscape restoration, to be launched on 04 December 2015, in Paris, France, during a side event to be held during the 21st UNFCCC Conference of Parties. She summarized the findings and conclusion derived from the three national case study reports (Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico). She proposed the following recommendations:
 - Identify ITTO's comparative advantage within the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) and utilize this to fill the gaps in restoration methodologies and toolkits;
 - Align revision of ITTO restoration guidelines with global emerging issues and priorities;
 - Utilize the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) to create visibility of the ITTO guidelines and to support the implementation of the global landscape restoration initiatives.
- The consultant concluded her presentation by inviting those who will be in Paris, France, for the participation in the 21st UNFCCC Conference of Parties, to attend the side event scheduled on 04 December 2015, for the launching of the joint WRI-ITTO Issue-Brief on forest landscape restoration.
- The Delegation from Indonesia expressed some concern regarding some findings and results presented by the consultant and wanted to know what would be the source of information and data used for this presentation.
- The Delegation from Peru reminded that it is difficult to compare three countries based on case studies undertaken in those countries, as the comparative analysis should take into account the specific elements related to each of the target sites which had been subject to case studies.
- The consultant informed the Delegation from Indonesia that her role was just to compile the findings, results and recommendations of three national case study reports on forest landscape restoration prepared for Ghana, Mexico and Indonesia. She explained that given limited time of the presentation, she could not capture a complete picture of the landscape situations from three countries, which include many positive aspects. She agreed with the comments made by the delegation of Peru.
- The Secretariat also informed the Delegation from Indonesia that the national case study report on forest landscape restoration for Indonesia was prepared by national consultants. Finally, the Secretariat thanked the consultant for her excellent presentation regarding completion of the case studies on forest landscape restoration undertaken in three countries (Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico) and reiterated the invitation to those who will be in Paris, France, to attend the WRI-ITTO side event for the launching of the WRI-ITTO Issue-Brief on forest landscape restoration.

(vii) Undertake a study on carbon removals and emissions associated with the production and use of a typical tropical wood product [Activity 12(b), ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(L)] [PP-A/50-299] [CRF(XLIX)/12]

The Secretariat introduced this Activity to the Committee, particularly the following significant features of the study: (i) the first case to identify practical methodologies available for the estimation of life span and retirement pattern of high quality tropical timber product; (ii) one of the first attempts to apply Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to the production and use of tropical timber product from log processing to the abolition of final product; and (iii) one of the good examples of partnerships between ITTO and the private sector. The Secretariat expressed its deep appreciation to the Government of Japan and Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd. for their generous contribution, which made this study possible.

The Consultant, Dr. Gan Kee Seng, presented the results of the study on behalf of the team of consultants, namely Professor Dr. Nobuaki Hattori, Professor Dr. Muh Yusram Massijaya and Dr. Gan. The major points of his presentation were:

- The objective of this study was: (i) to quantify carbon removals and emissions of plywood based flooring produced in Indonesia and used in Japan; and thereby, (ii) to demonstrate the advantage of producing longer life tropical timber products for ITTO producer members;
- To conduct the study, LCA was employed to quantify carbon removals and emissions of plywood based flooring throughout its entire life span and the findings from a series of studies on the life span of detached houses in Japan was used to estimate half-life and retirement rate of plywood based flooring;
- In 1 m² (@11.2 mm) of tropical plywood based flooring, 3.34 kg of carbon was stored. The stored carbon would be gradually released as houses are abolished with a half-life of 38 years for wood detached houses in Japan;
- If manufactured into high quality products, half-lives of tropical timber products can be longer than the current default half-life of 25 years for panels and the initial retirement rate can be less than the default first order decay; and

- In addition, nearly 100% of the wood material is recycled at the end-of-life for the production of particleboard or fiberboard, and the carbon continues to remain in these new products.

The consultant stressed the following in his presentation as recommendations:

- Tropical timber are generally strong and durable, and if manufactured into high quality products and used appropriately, they can have longer life spans and keep more carbon stocks for longer period;
- Quantification of carbon removals and emissions from the production and use of major high quality tropical timber products, including the estimation of their life spans and retirement rates, would increase their competitiveness in markets; and
- It may also enhance the efforts of ITTO producer countries in contributing to the mitigation of climate change, including through the development and improvement of INDCs, and increase opportunities for cooperation with the ITTO consumer countries in the framework of HWP.

The consultant concluded his presentation by appreciating Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd, PT Kutai Timber Indonesia (KTI) and Asahi Woodtec Corporation for providing valuable data and information on the production and use of plywood and plywood based flooring.

(viii) Application for accreditation to the Green Climate Change Fund [CRF(XLIX)/14] and Promotion of the development of “Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects” [CRF(XLIX)/13]

The Secretariat informed the Committees at the joint session regarding the recent development in the Green Climate Fund (GCF), including its accreditation process, and the actions the Secretariat had taken to fulfill the requirements for the accreditation, as follow:

- The GCF is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The objective of the GCF is to support developing countries in reducing emissions and adapting to climate change by channelling financial resources. The GCF finances, among others, projects and programmes to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and enhance sustainable management of forests and forest carbon stocks. Access to the funds is provided through accredited entities.
- The Secretariat of the GCF opened a call for the submission of application for the accreditation in November 2014. The applicants are required to demonstrate competence and capabilities in: administrative and financial management; project management; assessment and management of environmental and social risks and impacts; and gender consideration. ITTO Secretariat submitted an application in January 2015 and received a set of inquiries and comments on the application in February from the GCF Secretariat.
- Taking into account the size and capacity of the ITTO Secretariat, some of the institutional measures required for the accreditation had been substituted by the existing measures with necessary enhancement. The Secretariat had also developed drafts of the following instruments, as well as a Draft ITTO Guidelines on Achieving Gender Equity and Empowering Women developed under ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 based on the results of a series of consultations with the GCF Secretariat and in-depth assessment of the accreditation requirements:
 - Draft Anti-money laundering and Counter-terrorism Financing Policy; and
 - Draft Guidelines on Environmental and Social Risks and Impact Assessment in ITTO Projects.
- By the end of May 2015, 55 entities had submitted application, of which 20 entities had been accredited to the GCF. By November 2014, 33 countries had pledged USD 10 billion for the GCF, of which 22 countries had signed agreement for a total of over USD 5.4 billion by the end of May. With the attainment of 50% threshold, the GCF came into a position to start financing projects and programmes. Since June 2015, 37 proposals for projects and programmes had been submitted by the accredited entities requesting around USD 1.5 billion.
- In consideration of the outstanding level of the mobilized fund, the accreditation to the GCF would provide ITTO with a significant funding opportunity. The accreditation process was also expected to bring ITTO a good opportunity to update and upgrade its administrative, financial and operational functions and performance with improved compliance, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness. The drafted instruments would need to be incorporated into ITTO project manuals ultimately in order to make them operational.

The Secretariat further informed the Committees that the Draft Guidelines on Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects and the Draft ITTO Guidelines on Achieving Gender Equity and Empowering Women had already been presented and discussed at the sessions of the respective Committees. The Secretariat concluded its presentation by seeking comments and guidance from

the Committees on the contents, as well as the process to be taken toward the finalization and operationalization of the instruments.

The Committees recognized the opportunity available to ITTO in the accreditation to the GCF in general and appreciated the efforts of the Secretariat for the improvement of its policies and institutional mechanisms and procedures, including the development of drafts for the three policy instruments forwarded to the Committee for its consideration.

The Delegations of Cameroon and Indonesia asked the Secretariat about the potential impacts of these policy instruments on the formulation and implementation as well as the funding of ITTO projects and thematic programmes. The Secretariat informed the Committees of the process which is to follow the adoption of the instruments and the accreditation to the GCF, including the incorporation of the instruments into ITTO project manuals and the submission of project proposals to the GCF. The Secretariat further informed the Committees, in this regard, that impacts should be foreseen on the formulation, implementation and funding of ITTO projects and programmes.

The Delegation of the USA sought clarification on the work that had been already carried out by the Secretariat internally as well as on the deadline set by the GCF for the submission of applications, if any. She also noted the possible additional burden on the project proponents in light of the on-going challenges in project formulation. The Secretariat responded by informing the Committees that: (i) some of the accreditation requirements had already been fulfilled by the Secretariat by reinforcing the existing mechanisms and procedures; (ii) considerable increase in the burden on project proponents is not anticipated in consideration of the nature of ITTO projects; and (iii) no deadline has been set up so far in the accreditation process.

The representative of the EU pointed out that the issue of the impairment of investments has to be dealt with rapidly, thoroughly and in an exemplary transparent way and appropriate measures need to be taken. The Delegation of the USA reminded the Committees of the need for strong leadership of the Executive Director in carrying out the work, which requires significant resources. She also asked the Secretariat whether the feedback from the GCF Secretariat on ITTO application could be made available to members upon request.

The Chairperson of the joint session of the Committees concluded the discussion by proposing that the issue of the accreditation application should be continued at the next session of the Committees taking into account the consensus having been reached on the Draft Guidelines on Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects and the Draft ITTO Guidelines on Achieving Gender Equity and Empowering Women. The Committees accepted the proposal forwarded by the Chairperson.

With regard to the development of draft guidelines for environmental and social risks and impacts assessment (ESIA) in ITTO Projects, the Secretariat informed the Committee that the draft guidelines have been documented as CRF(XLIX)/13 with the engagement of two international consultants: Dr. James Gasana (Switzerland) and Mr. Ricardo Umali (Philippines) by using the funds pooled for ex-post evaluation.

The consultant, Dr. James Gasana, presented the draft guidelines for environmental and social risks and impacts assessment (ESIA) in ITTO Projects. He highlighted that environmental and social sustainability are important dimensions in ITTO projects, and explained that the draft guidelines for ESIA aim to provide a tool that governs the process of determining a project's environmental and social category and the resulting environmental and social assessment requirements. In the draft guidelines, five principles underpin the ESIA processes. These principles are: environmental sustainability, social sustainability, gender equality, forest governance and security of tenure. Dr. Gasana also showed the role to be played by ITTO's management systems in the ESIA process at project level from project screening to monitoring and evaluation. He then highlighted environmental and social requirements in eight key working areas.

On the procedure of further reviewing the draft guidelines for ESIA, the Secretariat explained three alternatives to the consideration by the Committee: (i) to adopt the guidelines subject to amendments proposed by members during the Fifty-first Session of the Council; (ii) to adopt the guidelines through an electronic no-objection procedure by addressing comments to be made by members; and (iii) to continue discussion at next session of the CRF in November 2016.

During the discussion, the Delegation of EU welcomed the draft guidelines for ESIA. The Delegations of Cameroon and Indonesia asked whether additional costs will be required during project formulation in accordance with new guidelines for ESIA. The consultant responded that it would depend on the type of

proposal and there would be no additional costs for proposals under category C of the proposed preliminary project categories for ESIA screening. He commented that past evaluations have shown that the performance of ITTO's projects as far as environmental sustainability is concerned has generally been high, adding that the performance as far as social sustainability is concerned was not as high. He said that the guidelines for ESIA are a tool to facilitate the determination of a project's environmental and social category and the resulting requirements. The Delegation of USA underlined the importance of the draft guidelines for ESIA and recommended that the draft guidelines be streamlined in a user-friendly way for further review at next session of the Committee. She also highlighted that there is a need to improve the environmental and social aspects of ITTO projects, with or without the process of accreditation of ITTO to the GCF.

The Committee commended the consultant for his report and presentation. The Committee decided to continue discussion on the draft guidelines for ESIA at next session of the CRF in November 2016 and recommended the following deadlines: revise the draft guidelines for ESIA by streamlining and simplifying; make available to members the revised draft guidelines for ESIA on the ITTO website on 15 March 2016 in order to receive feedback from members by 30 June 2015; and submit the final draft guidelines for ESIA incorporating comments received from members as CRF document for its 49th session in November 2016.

(ix) Revision of ITTO C&I [Activity 10(b), ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2013-2014 / Decision 2(XLVIII)] [PP-A/48-273]

The Secretariat introduced the revised ITTO C&I, noting that they had been posted on the ITTO website for an on-line no objection process to receive inputs from members from August through October 2015. It noted that the revision had taken account of ITTO's significant work on C&I since the last revision in 2005 and the evolution in the global forestry landscape. Wholesale changes to the C&I had been avoided to ensure countries could continue using existing national forest monitoring, assessment and reporting frameworks with only minor modifications if they wished to apply the revised C&I at national level.

The consultant, Dr. Jurgen Blaser, provided a presentation focusing on the process and nature of the revision and addressing the comments received from members during the no-objection period. Four countries (Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Portugal) provided written comments on the introductory text and a number of indicators that will be taken account of in the finalization of the C&I. Additional comments received from the Committee focused on how the revised C&I relate to existing national C&I, the use of the principle of governance and participation under criteria 1, and on how safeguards issues are dealt with in the revised C&I. All of these comments will be addressed in the revised ITTO Criteria and Indicators prior to its finalization in the first quarter of 2016.

Item 10 – Report on Approved Projects and Pre-projects

10.1 Projects

The Committee took note of a status report [document CRF(XLIX)/3] prepared by the Secretariat on projects in the field of Reforestation and Forest Management, that have been approved by the Council, and which are either: A) in the process of implementation (35), B) awaiting the signing of an Agreement (2), C) projects awaiting financing (30), or D) falling under the sunset provision since the last Session (6).

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

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

The Secretariat informed that projects that have been declared as completed in previous Committee Sessions but are still pending final financial audit reports were re-inserted in this session as projects under implementation. The Secretariat also informed that, as per ITTO regulations, Executing Agencies pending submission of financial audit reports do not qualify for further disbursements in any other ITTO projects they

may be implementing. The Committee urged all Executing Agencies in this situation to submit financial audit reports as soon as possible in order to comply with the regulations.

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

(A) Projects under implementation

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

The Committee recalled that at its two previous sessions it had urged the Executing Agency to immediately submit a satisfactory financial audit report for 2010, apply for a reasonable extension in time, without additional funds, for an approximate period of 18 months (as three 6-monthly ITTO disbursements totaling US\$ 240,000 are still pending), and further submit to the Secretariat a formal request with a justification for the aforementioned extension in time, together with any required budget amendments and an updated detailed Work Plan and Yearly Plan of Operations, in order to successfully complete the project's activities. Since the Forty-eighth Session of the Committee and in accordance with the ITTO Regional Officer's report, the Executing Agency submitted revisions of the aforementioned progress report, YPO and a request for an extension in time, but upon review by the ITTO Regional Officer these were considered to continue being unsatisfactory, and sent back once again for the required adjustments. The ITTO Regional Officer further informed that in reviewing the most recent audited report it appeared that some US\$ 40,000 of ITTO funds had been diverted to cover some expenses unrelated to the project, but that the EA had the intention of reimbursing these funds to the project shortly, and that efforts were currently being undertaken by the EA to produce the aforementioned pending documents.

In this light, the Committee once again urged the Executing Agency to immediately submit all previously mentioned documents, including a detailed written report justifying the unauthorized expenditures from the EA and initiate the actions required to reactivate the project, or otherwise request it be terminated. In addition, the Committee recommended a monitoring mission or an independent mid-term evaluation be carried out to assess the current status of the project, and further provide unanimous recommendations on the actions needed in order to either continue or close the project, in accordance with ITTO's rules of procedure.

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

The Committee noted that since its Forty-eight Session the Executing Agency EMBRAPA had submitted the audit report for 2014, an updated yearly plan of operations until July 2015, a progress report to December 2014, and a draft article for TFU, among others, and that the last tranche of funds was disbursed to in May 2015; and that EMBRAPA is currently preparing to finalize the scheduled activities by December 2015, according to a draft extension in time request. Nonetheless, the ITTO Regional Officer noted that EMBRAPA failed to present the most recent progress report, due to be delivered until July 31, 2015, and is currently following up for its prompt submission. As such, the Committee once again urges the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and periodically submit all pending documents following ITTO's guidelines and formats and within the established deadlines.

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

The Committee took note that since its Forty-eighth Session the Executing Agency had submitted the majority of the technical documents and other project outputs produced by the project and that it is currently finalizing its completion report. These publications are to be uploaded onto the ITTO website upon project completion for further dissemination to all our member countries and other interested parties. This project is expected to be reported as completed to the CRF at its next session in 2016.

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

The Committee noted that the implementing agency has already submitted the completion report, and it should be documented and reported as completed at the next Committee session, if the final financial audit report is submitted in due time. The Delegation from the Republic of Congo informed the Committee that appropriate arrangements with the Executing Agency should lead to the submission of the final financial audit report by March 2016. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to submit the final financial audit report at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2016.

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

The Committee took note that, in accordance with the report received from the ITTO Regional Officer, project development was very slow in 2015. The Executing Agency had difficulties in the preparation of documents, usually with missing data, incomplete information and systematic delays in its delivery, basically due to problems with the project staff which forced it to reshuffle its personnel. However, the Executing agency appears to have sorted these issues out and further requested an extension in time until December 2016, which was granted in September 2015. It has also very recently submitted a proper progress report, an updated yearly plan of operations, the 2014 Annual audit and a request for the third disbursement of funds. In this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency from now onwards to strictly abide to ITTO's procedures and scheduling, and periodically submit all documents following ITTO's guidelines and formats and within the established deadlines.

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

The Committee noted that the Secretariat received a satisfactory Annual Financial Audit Report for 2013 and the Secretariat is waiting for Annual Financial Audit Report for 2014 to transfer next installment in accordance with the project agreement. The Delegation of PNG informed the Committee that the Executing Agency, PNG Forestry Authority is currently working for Annual Financial Audit Report for 2014 with engagement of an independent audit company and this report will be submitted soon to ITTO.

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

The Delegation of Cambodia informed the Committee that this project will organize a regional conference on "Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests of Greater Mekong Sub-Region" from 23-25 March 2016 in Siem Reap, Cambodia. He said that this regional workshop will be organized with many partners including Thai Royal Forest Department, Champasak University of Lao PDR and CBD Secretariat in line with the ITTO/CBD Initiative to stimulate best practices of conservation of biological diversity in the region. He encouraged greater participation from member countries, universities, research institutions and civil societies in the upcoming regional biodiversity conference in March 2016 in Cambodia.

(B) Projects awaiting implementation agreement

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

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

2) PD 725/13 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Land in the Ahua Forest Reserve by the Women Members of Association Malebi in Compensation for the Forest Resources Removed to Meet the Need for Fuel Wood (Charcoal and Fire Wood) (Côte d'Ivoire)

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Project Agreement was sent to Cote d'Ivoire for the signing process by the relevant parties, in March 2015. The signing of the agreement has been delayed, for several months, due to the bureaucratic procedures/formalities required to get beforehand the no-objection of several ministries (Foreign Affairs, Finance and Forestry) in Cote d'Ivoire. The delegation from Cote d'Ivoire informed the Secretariat that the necessary efforts are made to finalize the signing process of the project agreement and to make sure that the project implementation could start early in 2016.

As no delegation from Cote d'Ivoire was present in the room during the discussion, the Delegation from USA wanted to know what measures were taken by the Secretariat to address this issue of great delay in finalizing the signing of the agreement. The Secretariat informed the delegation from USA that an ITTO Projects Manager will visit Cote d'Ivoire, from 25 to 28 November 2015, in order to discuss this issue with relevant institutions of Cote d'Ivoire and make sure that the project implementation could start early in 2016.

Therefore, the Committee took note that the signing process of the agreement, which should govern the implementation of this project, could be finalized shortly and that the project implementation could be expected to start early in 2016.

(C) Projects awaiting financing

The Committee noted that twenty-nine (30) projects approved at earlier and current Sessions are still awaiting funding, out of which ten (16) will be sunset if funding is not secured before the next Session.

- 1) *PD 554/09 Rev.3 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Forests in the Collective Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia
- 2) *PD 618/11 Rev.4 (F) Establishment of Spatial Forest Resources Information System (SPA-FRIS) in West Papua Province (Indonesia)
- 3) *PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F) Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana
- 4) *PD 690/13 Rev.3 (F) Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Sustainable Rural Development in the Peruvian Amazon Region (Peru)
- 5) *PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra (Indonesia)
- 6) *PD 713/13 Rev. 2 (F) Operationalising the Policy on Sustainable Management of Sandalwood Resource Through Improved Livelihood and Increased Participation of Local Communities (Indonesia)
- 7) *PD 717/13 Rev.2 (F) Enrichment of Young Forest Plantations with Selected NTFPs for Livelihood Improvement and Support of Forest Fringe Communities in Atwima Mponua District of Ghana, in order to Secure and Protect the Resources on a Sustainable Forest Management Basis
- 8) *PD 721/13 Rev.2 (F) Building a Participatory and Inclusive Sustainable Forest Management Process for the Reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Ixil Forest Areas of the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala
- 9) PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar
- 10) *PD 733/14 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Forest Restoration through Multiple-Use of Degraded Forest Lands within Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve in Ghana
- 11) *PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra (Indonesia)
- 12) *PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp)
- 13) *PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Ebony Species (*Diospyros celebica* Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia)

- 14) *PD 741/14 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru
- 15) *PD 742/14 Rev.1 (F) Local Capacity Building for the Management of Secondary and Residual Primary Forests in the Provinces of Coronel Portillo and Padre Abad, Department of Ucayali, Peru
- 16) *PD 747/14 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Community Forest Management Through the Implementation of Forest Training and Extension in Guatemala
- 17) PD 748/14 Rev.3 (F) Building Capacities and Meaningful Stakeholder Participation in Forest Governance to Contribute toward Sustainable Forest Management and Improved Livelihoods of Forest Dependent Communities in Honduras and Guatemala
- 18) *PD 752/14 Rev.1 (F) Restoring Mangrove Forest Landscapes: An Opportunity for Social Development at the Alvarado Lagoon System (ALS) Ramsar Site, Veracruz, Mexico
- 19) PD 754/14 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin
- 20) PD 762/14 Rev.2 (F) Developing and Implementing Improved Management Practices that Maintain and Enhance Forests and Biodiversity Protection, to Support SFM within the Context of Multiple Use in Guyana's Forest Dependent Communities
- 21) *PD 764/14 Rev.1 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilots Areas of PNG
- 22) PD 765/14 Rev.2 (F) Development of a Forest Landscape Restoration Program for Guatemala Based on ITTO Guidelines
- 23) PD 772/15 Rev.1 (F) Improved Application of Growth and Yield Models to Forest Management Planning in the Amazon Basin (Brazil)
- 24) PD 773/15 Rev.1 (F) Restoration and Maintenance of Environmental Services in Moist Tropical Pasture Lands - Criteria and Techniques for the Introduction and Use of Native Trees (Mexico)
- 25) PD 774/15 Rev.2 (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)
- 26) PD 775/15 Rev.2 (F) Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico
- 27) PD 777/15 Rev.2 (F) Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders (Indonesia)
- 28) PD 778/15 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable Forest Management, Conservation of Biological Diversity and Promotion of Landscapes for Socio-Ecologic Production in Indigenous Territories of the Uwalcox Micro-Watershed in Guatemala's Western Altiplano (Guatemala)
- 29) PD 785/15 Rev.1 (F) Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics (Mexico)
- 30) PD 794/15 Rev.1 (F) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador

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

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

The Committee noted that five (6) projects have become sunset since its last Session.

- 1) PD 460/07 Rev.2 (F) Achieving Sustainable Management of Mangrove Forests in China through Local Capacity Building and Community Development – Phase II
- 2) PD 631/12 Rev.2 (F) Reforestation of Coastal Wetlands in Southern Ghana Using Indigenous Tree and Bamboo Species
- 3) PD 645/12 Rev.3 (F) Promoting Sustainable Forest Management of Rinjani Barat Forest Management Unit (Indonesia)
- 4) PD 665/12 Rev.2 (F) Implementation of a Fire Prevention and Control Plan in the Central Amazon Region of Peru
- 5) PD 695/13 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation of Degraded Gazetted Forests in the Mount Korhogo, Foubou and Badenou in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Involvement of Local Communities
- 6) PD 715/13 Rev.1 (F) Improving the Production, Conservation and Management of Forest Seeds in Benin

10.2 Pre-project

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

(A) Pre-projects under implementation

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

The Committee took note that the implementing agency has not submitted the completion report and the final financial audit report. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to take the necessary arrangements for the submission of these reports at its earliest convenience, not later than March 2016.

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

The Committee noted that the implementing agency has not submitted the final financial audit report of this pre-project, which was reported as completed, but pending the final financial audit report, at a previous CRF session. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to submit the final financial audit report, at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2016.

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

The Committee noted that the implementing agency has already submitted the completion report and final technical report, and the pre-project should be documented and reported as completed at the next Committee session, if the final financial audit report is submitted in due time. Therefore, the Committee decided to urge the implementing agency to submit the final financial audit report, at its earliest convenience, not later than end of March 2016.

(B) Pre-projects awaiting implementation agreement

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

(C) Pre-projects awaiting financing

The Committee noted that nine (7) pre-projects approved at earlier and current Sessions are still awaiting funding, out of which four (5) will be sunset if funding is not secured before the next Session.

- 1) *PPD 169/13 Rev.2 (F) Identification of a Project for the Reforestation and Management of the Large Ndjock-Lipan Forest Complex in the Bondjock, Departement of Nyong-and-Kéllé, Central Cameroon
- 2) *PPD 170/13 Rev.2 (F) Identification of a Project in Support of Natural Regeneration and the Establishment of Forest Plantations in the Mbam-and-Kim Department (Cameroon)
- 3) PPD 177/14 Rev.1 (F) Inventory of Mangrove Ecosystem and Development of a Management Plan for Gabon
- 4) PPD 178/14 Rev.2 (F) Support to the Creation of Green Belts around the Waza, Benoué, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda National Parks (Cameroon)
- 5) *PPD 180/14 Rev.1 (F) Pre-Project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of the Mangrove Forests in the Coastal Area of Côte d'Ivoire
- 6) *PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F) Feasibility Study on the Payment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Forests in Benin
- 7) PPD 182/15 Rev.1 (F) Supporting Protected - Area Communities in Afram Plains to Engage in Integrated Management of Economic Timber Species in Community Lands (Ghana)

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

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

The Committee noted that four (4) pre-projects have become sunset since its last Session.

- 1) PPD 162/12 Rev.2 (F) Developing Model of Self-sufficient and Sustainable FMU (Indonesia)
- 2) PPD 163/12 Rev.2 (F) Assessing Growth and Yield Rates of Major Commercial Species for the Adjustment of Forest Management Programs in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico
- 3) PPD 166/13 Rev.2 (F) Improving the Fuel Wood Supply through the Provision of Support to the Development of Forest Plantations in the Mokolo, Maroua and Kaelé Municipalities in the Sahelian Part of Cameroon
- 4) PPD 176/13 Rev.1 (F) Identification and Planning of Measures for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Estate Owned by Individuals in Togo

Item 11 - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2016

Dr. Nurudeen Iddrisu (Ghana) was elected as Chairperson for 2016. Ms. Marjukka Mähönen (Finland) was elected as Vice-Chairperson for 2016.

Item 12 - Dates and Venues of the Fiftieth and Fifty-first Sessions of the Committee

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

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

Item 13 - Other Business

The Committee was informed that Mr. John J. Leigh would retire soon from the ITTO Secretariat and the Chairperson requested the Committee to applaud him for his services in the Organization during 23 years of work. The Delegations of Peru, Benin and USA expressed appreciation to Mr. Leigh for his dedicated contributions to the work of the Committee and the Organization.

Item 14 - Recommendations to the International Tropical Timber Council

The Committee recommended that funding be made immediately available for the following projects and pre-project approved under the Project Cycle Spring 2015 and Project Cycle Autumn 2015:

Projects

PD 748/14 Rev.3 (F)	Building Capacities and Meaningful Stakeholder Participation in Forest Governance to Contribute toward Sustainable Forest Management and Improved Livelihoods of Forest Dependent Communities in Honduras and Guatemala [ITTO Budget: US\$ 587,961]
PD 754/14 Rev.2 (F)	Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin [ITTO Budget: US\$ 591,618]
PD 762/14 Rev.2 (F)	Developing and Implementing Improved Management Practices that Maintain and Enhance Forests and Biodiversity Protection, to Support SFM within the Context of Multiple Use in Guyana's Forest Dependent Communities[ITTO Budget: US\$ 601,552]
PD 765/14 Rev.2 (F)	Development of a Forest Landscape Restoration Program for Guatemala Based on ITTO Guidelines [ITTO Budget: US\$ 601,944]
PD 772/15 Rev.1 (F)	Improved Application of Growth and Yield Models to Forest Management Planning in the Amazon Basin [ITTO Budget: US\$ 143,920]
PD 773/15 Rev.1 (F)	Restoration and Maintenance of Environmental Services in Moist Tropical Pasture Lands - Criteria and Techniques for the Introduction and Use of Native Trees[ITTO Budget: US\$ 151,200]
PD 774/15 Rev.2 (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 [ITTO Budget: US\$ 655,213.44]
PD 775/15 Rev.2 (F)	Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico [ITTO Budget: US\$ 899,461]
PD 777/15 Rev.2 (F)	Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders [ITTO Budget: US\$ 564,491]
PD 778/15 Rev.1 (F)	Sustainable Forest Management, Conservation of Biological Diversity and Promotion of Landscapes for Socio-Ecologic Production in Indigenous Territories of the Uwalcox Micro-Watershed in Guatemala's Western Altiplano [ITTO Budget: US\$ 699,581]
PD 785/15 Rev.1 (F)	Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics [ITTO Budget: US\$ 1,497,321.61]
PD 794/15 Rev.1 (F)	Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador [ITTO Budget: US\$ 724,391]

Pre-projects

PPD 178/14 Rev.2 (F) Support to the Creation of Green Belts around the Waza, Benoué, Faro and Bouda Ndjidda National Parks [ITTO Budget: US\$ 86,240]

PPD 182/15 Rev.1 (F) Supporting Protected - Area Communities in Afram Plains to Engage in Integrated Management of Economic Timber Species in Community Lands [ITTO Budget: US\$ 79,072]

Item 15 - Report of the Session

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

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