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REPORT ON

PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

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● **PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

A total of twenty nine (29) approved projects are currently under implementation while additional five (5) projects are awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are twenty three (23) approved projects still awaiting full financing while there are seven (7) approved projects that fell under the sunset provision since the last Session. In this report the projects are grouped into four categories:

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

A. PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: EMBRAPA Eastern Amazon

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XXXVIII, June 2005, Brazzaville, Rep. of Congo

Starting Date and Duration: October 2007 / 24 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension: until December 2011 (CRFXLIV)
Second extension: until July 2013 (NOLF.12-0128)
Third extension until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0167)
Fourth extension until July 2016 (NOLF.16-0090)

Upon the receipt of an official letter by the ITTO Secretariat from the authority of the Government of Brazil to ensure the submission of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report at its earliest convenience, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed at its Fiftieth Session.

Background information

This project was approved and fully financed by the Council at its Thirty-eighth Session held in June 2005. The agreement to regulate the implementation of this project was duly signed in May 2007. Upon the receipt and approval of the Inception Report, as well as the first Yearly Plan of Operations by the Secretariat, the first installment of funds was released in October 2007.

The objective of this project is to contribute to the recovery of degraded forests on family-owned lands in the eastern Amazon by conducting capacity-building of the farmers living in the area and developing a network of partnerships involving the farmers, as well as post graduate students, research institutions and producers' associations interested in the rehabilitation of the degraded forests. The project also includes the establishment and monitoring of demonstration areas using various recovering schemes and a review of the current legislation with a view to reducing deforestation and promoting rehabilitation of degraded lands. The

project plans to involve 150 families of farmers and to establish at least 20 demonstration areas, of which nine would be monitored in order to collect and process biophysical and chemical information.

The progress having been made in the implementation of this project since the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee is summarized below, based on the information received from the Executing Agency by the ITTO Secretariat.

The last installment of funds was released in May 2015 according to the authorized budget modifications. At the end of 2015, the ITTO Secretariat suggested the Executing Agency that the project should complete its activities and be declared completed at the Fiftieth Session of the Committee to be held in November 2016. Responding to the guidance from the Secretariat, the Executing Agency requested an extension the project period until July 2016, which was subsequently approved by the Secretariat. At the beginning of 2016, the Executing Agent also submitted the Yearly Plan of Operations until July 2016, the 17th Progress Report and the Audit Report for 2015. The last Steering Committee Meeting was held in July 2016 with the participation of the project team members, beneficiaries from the three municipalities where the project activities have been implemented, and the representatives from the Brazilian Cooperation Agency of the Ministry of External Relations (ABC/MRE) and the ITTO Secretariat. At the meeting, the Executive Agency presented drafts of the Completion Report, the revised TFU article, technical products and the means of verification. It was informed, however, that the Final Financial Audit Report would only be delivered in March 2017. In Brazil, audit reports of the publicly implemented projects are prepared by a government institution only once a year per project.

In consideration of the above, it is concluded that the Executing Agency has completed the project activities, although in a much longer period than planned, and delivered the final documents, except for the Final Financial Audit Report.

I Introduction

1. Project identification

1.1 Context

During the last two decades, EMBRAPA Eastern Amazon developed two important projects designed to address the secondary forests ("capoeira") in the northeast region of the State of Pará in collaboration with several national and international institutions. These include:

- The project called "Tipitamba" (1991), which implemented several activities on farmlands to provide alternatives to the slash-and-burn agriculture through a cooperation between the Government of Brazil and the Government of Germany; and
- The project entitles "Secondary Vegetation Forest Management in Agricultural Properties" which began in 1997 focusing on the conservation and management of secondary forests to benefit the rural communities in the area where primary forests no longer existed or were very fragmented.

1.1.1 Sector-specific Policies

In the beginning of the 2000s, the Brazilian Government set up an Inter-Ministerial Taskforce Group to recommend measures and coordinate actions to decrease deforestation in the Amazon. This crosscutting policy resulted in a launch of a new model of agrarian reform with sustainable forest use, in contrast to the solely agricultural settlements in the past.

1.2 Origins and problems

In the past, even until recent years, economic models for the development of the Amazon have rarely considered environmental aspects, and as a result, over 280 thousand square kilometers of lands were deforested. The major cause of the landscape change were livestock, wood exploitation, slash-and-burn agriculture and, more recently, commercial grain farming.

- The municipality of Bragança, one of the oldest in Pará, presents a combination of agricultural with secondary forests due to the type of farming practised since colonization. There, the intensive exploitation of natural resources motivated by disorderly land occupation led to the environmental degradation of large tracts of land, where the most agricultural tradition is the slash-burn system.
- The municipality of Capitão Poço is also considered one of the oldest areas in the agricultural colonization of the Amazon. However, differently from the former, only 6% native forest remains and cattle ranching take up 17% of the area, together with high concentration of perennial crops.
- The municipality of Garrafão do Norte, a more recently occupied area where about 30% residual forest area remains and cattle breeding is more intensive.

These three municipalities were the ideal setting for the project PD 346/05 for their old agricultural colonization and because their forests presented different stages of use.

Until the beginning of the 2000's, there was no pilot or demonstration experiments for the recovery of degraded Legal Reserve Areas and Permanent Preservation Areas. Then, EMBRAPA launched the INOVAGRI project to recover degraded areas through the participation and training of farmers, discussion on the environmental legislation concerning family farming, establishment of a pertinent monitoring system and development of a network of recovered areas for demonstration.

1.2.1 Economic aspects

In the three municipalities in the project area, agricultural production is family-based and mostly focused on subsistence crops, such as rice, beans, cassava and maize, and the following five agriculture activities are mainly practiced: annual crop farming, perennial and semi-perennial crop farming, agroforestry consortia and livestock farming.

1.2.2 Social aspects

Social participation takes place in two different ways in this project, namely through (i) specific courses for farmers and discussions on environmental legislation and property use plans, and (ii) partnerships with unions representing rural family farmers, directly related to the project work.

II. Project Objectives

The environmental legislation of Brazil states that rural development in the Amazon must keep 80% of their natural forest cover as Legal Reserve Areas (ARLs), excluding riverbanks and shores which are Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs). This regulation was not regularly observed for various reasons. However, with the approval of new Brazilian Forest Code in 2012, the environmental legislation laid down more forceful rules for the protection of APPs and ARLs, including the submission of reports on the recovery of modified or degraded areas.

Development Objective:

To contribute to the recovery of degraded areas on family farms in the eastern Amazon in order to increase potential forest production and promote compliance to the environmental legislation.

Specific Objectives:

- To set up a demonstration network for the recovery of ARLs and APPs that had been degraded in family farms in the eastern Brazilian Amazon; and
- To develop a monitoring system to monitor, assess and report on the recovery of the degraded areas.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The following paragraphs summarize the major achievements made for the respective Outputs set out for the two Specific Objectives. Various reports have been received from the project and they are annexed to the Completion Report. A complete set of documents are available from the ITTO Secretariat upon request.

Specific Objective 1 – To set up a demonstrative network for the recovery of ARLs and APPs that had been degraded in family farms in the eastern Brazilian Amazon

Output 1.1

- The following three initial courses were organized in the area:
 - o A course on seed collection and seedling production in the city of Altamira attended by 50 participants;
 - o A course on recovery strategies of degraded areas attended by 150 participants; and
 - o A course on prevention techniques and community control of fires attended by 150 participants.

Output 1.2

- Preparation of recovered plans for the areas were prepared, including the identification of areas, recovery scheme and tree species;
- Building of nurseries to produce 80 thousand seedlings;
- Development of participatory land use plans and strategy in 32 farms;
- Implementation of 32 demonstration units for recovery of degraded lands; and
- Provision of technical assistance and training in recovery monitoring for 50 families.

Output 1.3

- Organization of several workshops on current environmental legislation at farmers' unions;

Output 1.4

- Publication of eight technical-scientific articles;
- Production and distribution of one thousand wall calendars advertising the project; and
- Development, publication and distribution of educational materials on forest recovery.

Specific Objective 2 – To develop a monitoring system to monitor, assess and report on the recovery of the degraded areas

Output 2.1

- Development of a monitoring system for the areas under recovery; and
- Implementation of monitoring activities in nine areas under recovery conducted as a training of farmer families.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

More than 150 families and many technicians were trained on recovery strategies throughout the project duration. Monitoring activities have continued at 28 recovery demonstration units for more than eight years, out of 32 units set up originally. Seven Master's theses and end-of-course academic projects resulted from the activities of this project. Discussions were carried out with the beneficiaries on the difficulties families of farmers were facing under the current forest legislation. Partner families came to pay more attention to the use of fire in their properties. Positive implications have been observed in the use of resources by farmers toward the improvement in management systems and livelihoods. Considerable improvement has been recognized mainly by the land owners in the soil, quality of water and microclimate, as reported in 2012 in one of the master's theses.

This ITTO project provided the participating farmers with experiences that directly impacted their land use approaches. It was observed that many partner farmers have become advocates of conservation practices and sustainable use of natural resources. They desire to expand the recovery units by planting tree species on their land and disseminate their experiences among others. Such an attitude of the participating farmers indicates a cultural shift, which is expected to expand and continue to evolve.

The participatory approach allowed family farmers to take part in the whole process, starting from the preparation of maps of their lands, identification of the areas to be recovered, selection of plantation species, collection of data to monitor, analyze and follow up the development in the recovery units. This work has made the farmers feel like researchers, and at the same time, raised awareness of the importance of rehabilitating environmentally sensitive areas on their farmland and improving the management of their properties. The participatory approach and the resulted changes were the major factor that have made this project successful and should be taken into account in developing public policies for the Amazon family farming.

Another positive impact of this project was the influx of farmers seeking information on the project and its activities and the future partnerships for the recovery of other degraded areas, even from other Amazonian municipalities and regions.

One of the important outputs of this project was the comprehensive study on the impact of legislations, particularly the New Forest Code, on the recovery of degraded areas and the livelihoods of farmers. This work finalizes pointing out, in a guideline form for family farms the important steps in the recovery of environmental liability areas in order to meet new legislation demands.

The negative aspects observed in the implementation of this project include delays in the delivery of funds, which not only affected the implementation of activities and but also discouraged participating farmers as well as the technical team. Some activities had to be reviewed and adjusted to the changes caused by these bureaucratic setbacks.

V. Lessons learnt and sustainability

The strong partnerships and the trust established among stakeholders indicate a countless lesson learned from this project. It should be emphasized, in this respect, that a broad coverage of stakeholders is the key to the success of land rehabilitation projects, particularly for the meaningful involvement and change

in the attitude of direct beneficiaries, as well as the effective dissemination and secured sustainability of achievements. Another lesson learned from this project is related to the duration of this type of participatory land rehabilitation projects, which require at least four years, especially for demonstrating the benefits from land recovery and convincing beneficiaries of the positive impacts on their livelihoods.

The project sustainability is expected to be secured through the following four ways:

- a) With the changes in their attitude, the family farmers participated in this project will continue practicing recovery work and sustainable resource use;
- b) The monitoring methods developed in this project will be used for the new Brazilian Forest Code in its implementation, where information on recovery areas is required;
- c) The network of 28 farms established in this project have already been taken by EMBRAPA as its demonstration units which will be used for technology transfer activities in partnership with the National Agency for Technical Assistance and Rural Extension (ANATER);

As a direct result of this ITTO project, the Executing Agency and the Ministry of Environment recently approved a project which will deliver significant amount of financial resources provided by the German Bank KfW to recover forests on the degraded farmland. In implementation this new project, the network of 28 demonstration recovery units will be used to train farmers from the municipalities in the most deforested area of Pará State and the beneficiaries of this project will act as instructors in the training of farmers.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: January 2009 / 12 months

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

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of this report. The termination notice was sent in April 2016 and urged the Executing Agency to submit the Final Financial Audit Report, otherwise the project shall be recommended for termination to the Committee at its Fiftieth Session in November 2016. Upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report by the Secretariat prior to the Fiftieth Session, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed. Soft copies of the abovementioned Completion Report and other documents will be made available upon written request by the Secretariat.

I. Introduction

The Council approved the project at its Thirty-ninth Session in Yokohama, Japan, in November 2005, and financing for its implementation was partly pledged during the Fortieth Session in June 2006, for an amount of Euro 50,000. The Council authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account. The full financing for its implementation was ensured when the shortfall amount was made available in August 2007 by France. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 7 September 2007 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in January 2009. A project extension was granted until July 2010,

without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in December 2010, the project operation period had lasted 23 months instead of 12 initially designed by the implementing agency [*Unité de Recherche sur la Productivité des Plantations Industrielles (UR2PI) / Direction Générale de l'Economie Forestiere*].

II. Project Objective

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

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Following a relatively long period during which forest plantations were no longer considered as a major stake in the Congo Basin (except for special cases such as the Eucalyptus plantations of Southern Congo), renewed interest in forest plantations had appeared again, as one of the best ways to reduce pressure on natural forests, in relation to various goods and services (timber products, fuelwood and charcoal, non-timber forest products, etc.). That's why the project was important for the Republic of Congo to develop a national set of Principles, Criteria & Indicators for the sustainable management of forest plantations, as a structured and coherent methodological framework. This framework, derived from the implementation of this project, had been developed through the achievements and outputs summarized as follows:

- A Report on the analysis of ITTO Criteria & Indicators for the establishment and sustainable management of forest plantations in the context of Congo's environmental conditions was drafted and emphasized on the complementarity with the existing national set of Principles, Criteria & Indicators for the sustainable management of natural forests; and
- A national set of Principles, Criteria & Indicators (PC&I) for the sustainable management of forest plantations in the Republic of Congo was developed and validated by all relevant stakeholders. The national set of PC&I includes: four (4) Principles, twenty-three (23) Criteria and one hundred (100) Indicators, as well as two hundred fifty (250) Verifiers for Indicators.

The national set of Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers for the sustainable management of forest plantations in the Republic of Congo had been subject to field test in the following sites: Bilala village, Youbi village, Ignie village and in Eucalyptus forest plantations established around the city of Pointe-Noire.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

This Project had produced a reference structured and coherent methodological framework, as an effective contribution to the sustainable management policy dealing with forest plantations in the Republic of Congo. This reference framework could provide appropriate guidance for the sustainable management of various types of plantations (industrial, community, rehabilitation, agro-forestry, etc.), for the benefits of relevant stakeholders.

This framework could also provide stakeholders with necessary tools for the development of future initiatives such as:

- The change of forestry policies, including the forest law (Code Forestier), on the establishment and management of forest plantations in the Republic of Congo;
- The basis for the establishment of a platform for consultation between the Government and other stakeholders and partners on the establishment and management of forest plantations; and
- The introduction of concepts such as "forest landscape restoration", which take into consideration various conditions in plantations through more environment-friendly approaches.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

There was a need to regularly consult the members of the national working group promoting the national set of Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers for the sustainable management of natural forests, in order to learn from them lessons for an efficient development of the national set of Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers (PCI&V) for the sustainable management of forest plantations in the Republic of Congo.

The national working group for the promotion of the sustainable management of natural forests in the Republic of Congo was established by the project PD 124/01 Rev.2 for the implementation of the harmonized ITTO-ATO Principles, Criteria and Indicators for the sustainable management of African natural tropical forests. With these two national sets of PCI&V, the Republic of Congo has technical tools for the management of both natural forests and forest plantations. These two national sets of PCI&V had been approved by the ministry in charge of forestry as part of forest regulations implemented in the Republic of Congo.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	899,832
ITTO Budget:		US\$	594,432
Government of Japan:	US\$	514,432	
Government of France:	US\$	60,000	
Government of Norway:	US\$	20,000	
Government of Gabon:		US\$	305,400

Implementing Agency: *Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts*

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XL, May-June 2006, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico

Starting Date and Duration: March 2009 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension: until March 2013 (NOLF.12-0274)
Second extension: until December 2014 (NOLF.14-0300)
Third extension: until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0005)

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of this report. Upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report by the Secretariat prior to its Fiftieth Session in November 2016, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed. Soft copies of abovementioned Completion Report and other documents will be made available by the Secretariat upon written request.

I. Introduction

The Council approved the project at its Fortieth Session in Merida, Mexico, in June 2006. Financing was not allocated at that time, but it was fully funded at the Forty-first Council Session, in November 2006, in Yokohama, Japan. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 13 March 2007 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in March 2009. Two project extensions were granted until December 2014, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on official requests including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in August 2016, the project operation period had lasted 89 months instead of 36 initially designed by the implementing agency (Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts)

II. Project Objective

The project aimed to contribute to the sustainable management of the rural forest estate and organizing the village estates and combating poverty in the communities established in the rural areas through the development of community forests. The specific objectives were as follows: (1) to experiment the establishment of three pilot community forests and (2) to develop SFM guidelines for community forests from the model forest experiment.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The promulgation of the Forest Code in 2001 did not lead to the creation of community forests in Gabon, as a way to empower local communities for the management of forest estate allocated to them. This was due to the lack of formal guidelines or directives allowing to apply the provisions of articles dealing with

creation of a community forest (CF). Communities forests were supposed to replace the *permis de pied d'arbre* (a logging permit stipulating a quota of harvestable trees) in order to help local communities improve their living standards with income to be generated by CF resources. This project contributed to the preparation of the missing formal guidelines and directives through the achievements and outputs summarized here below:

- 1) The main actions of the project were focused on the facilitation process and the mobilization of the various stakeholders, in the following three sites selected among those nominated by the Community Forest Feasibility study conducted in 2000: Ongam Village (Estuaire Province), Nkang Village (Woleu-Ntem Province) and Oyenano Village instead of Guiétsou Village (Ngounié Province).
- 2) The project implementation contributed to the development and validation of the following reference technical documents providing clear guidance for the creation and management of a community forest:
 - Guidebook for a socio-economic study;
 - Guidebook for a participatory demarcation of a community forest;
 - Guidebook for a participatory mapping of a community forest;
 - Guidebook for a participatory forest inventory in a community forest; and
 - Guidebook for the preparation of a simplified management plan for a community forest.
- 3) The abovementioned reference technical documents and other findings of this project had led to the signature of the following legal texts:
 - Ministerial Decree No.018/MEF/SG/DGF/DFC dealing with the procedures and formalities for the allotment and management of a community forest;
 - Ministerial Decree No.106/MFEPRN dealing with the reservation right of a community forest by a local community, for a right of pre-emption in favor of local communities; and
 - Ministerial Decree No.105/MFEPRN dealing with the specifications of each party to the management convention of a community forest by a local community.
- 4) Subsequent to the abovementioned ministerial decrees, the project contributed to the creation of the Nkang Community Forest through the signing of the following ministerial legal documents:
 - Ministerial Decision allotting the Nkang Community Forest (2,973 hectares) to the Association N'NEM-MBO representing local communities of Nkang; and
 - Ministerial Convention No.02/13/MEF/SG/DGF/DFCom on the management of the Nkang Community Forest signed between the Minister of Forestry and the Chairman of N'NEM-MBO Association, for the duration of 20 years, based on the simplified management plan (SMP) prepared with the support of the project. The SMP is subject to revision every five years and the revision could be source the modification of the ministerial convention with an addendum.

At the project completion, one community (Nkang) out of three communities involved in the project implementation was formally allotted through a ministerial decision.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The abovementioned legal instruments and technical documents, developed during the project implementation, had provided guidelines and directives which had led to the allotment of a community forest to one community (Nkang) out of three communities involved in the project implementation. Therefore, the government institutions, in particular the ministry in charge of forestry, had got tools for the allotment and management of community forests in Gabon. An administrative unit called "*Direction de la Foresterie Communautaire*" was created for the implementation of this project and should continue to operate as a specialized unit in community forestry within the ministry of forestry of Gabon.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The implementation of some project activities had been delayed because of internal turnover of some personnel, involved in the project implementation, within the Ministry of Forestry of Gabon. This problem was solved by the creation of the *Direction de la Foresterie Communautaire* (DFC) which was fully in charge of the project implementation. The DFC, a specialized unit in charge of community forestry in Gabon, should continue to provide appropriate technical supports to the three communities involved in the project implementation as follows:

- Nkang Community: for the smooth implementation of the simplified management plan;
- Ongam Community: for the follow-up to get the signature of the ministerial decision for the allotment of a community forest to them, as well as the ministerial management convention; and

- Oyenano Community: for the finalization and validation of the simplified management plan required for the signing of the ministerial decision for the allotment of a community forest to them.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	2,318,280
ITTO Budget:	US\$	1,800,000
Government of Japan:	US\$	1,800,000
Agency/GOC:	US\$	518,280

Implementing Agency: Société de Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)

Period of Approval: Spring 2013

Starting Date and Duration: October 2013 / 48 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2013 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, and the financing was made at the same Project Cycle under the framework of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference for African Development (TICAD V). The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 2 June 2013, during the TICAD V meeting in Yokohama, Japan, by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Côte d'Ivoire, Executive Director of ITTO and the Managing Director of SODEFOR. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 16 October 2013.

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

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

- The level (in %) of the overall progress made in implementing all project activities by the Executing Agency (SODEFOR) is presented in the following table:

Project Activities	Responsible Parties	% of execution
A.1.1 Forest seeds collection and processing	SODEFOR and local community leaders	100
A.1.2 Production of stumps in the SODEFOR's central forest tree nurseries	SODEFOR and local community leaders	75
A.1.3 To organize training in the establishment, management and maintenance of forest tree nurseries, with local communities	SODEFOR	100
A.1.4 Production of forest seedlings in both forest nurseries established by local communities (one nursery near each gazetted forest).	SODEFOR and local community leaders	75
A.1.5 Production of forest seedlings in both local nurseries (near the Duékoué and Scio gazetted forests), with stumps supplied by SODEFOR's Central Forest Tree Nurseries.	SODEFOR and local community leaders	75
A.1.6 Forest seedlings disseminated to selected households among the local communities.	SODEFOR	40
A.2.1 To implement a socio-economic study of the project area after a series of outreach campaigns	SODEFOR & Consultant	100
A.2.2 To identify and select households among the local communities	SODEFOR and local	100

who will be involved in the implementation of this project	community leaders	
A.2.3 To organize training on the creation and management of associations and/or cooperatives for local communities	SODEFOR & Consultant	40
A.2.4 To distribute « farming kits » (containing seeds for selected food crops, small equipment and tools) to the households selected among the local communities (displaced persons within the country, refugees and/or local communities), for the production of food produces to be associated with tree cultivation under the taungya agroforestry system.	SODEFOR and local community leaders	25
A.2.5 To provide assistance to the organization of local communities into cooperatives and/or partnerships.	SODEFOR & Civil Society	75
A.2.6 To install storage facilities for food produces harvested from agroforestry plantations established by the local communities, and other facilities to house small-scale food produce processing machinery.	SODEFOR, Local community leaders & Civil Society	0
A.3.1 To manage training on the successive steps leading to the establishment of agroforestry plantations using the taungya method.	SODEFOR and local community leaders	40
A.3.2 To prepare sites and soils in the Duékoué and Scio gazetted forests, with the collaboration of local communities.	SODEFOR and local community leaders	75
A.3.3 To establish agroforestry plantations using the <i>taungya</i> methods used by the local communities.	SODEFOR and local community leaders	10
A.3.4 Weeding and other maintenance actions on agroforestry plantations established by the local communities using the <i>taungya</i> methods.	SODEFOR and local community leaders	30
A.3.5 Monitoring and evaluation of agroforestry plantations established by the local communities using the taungya method	SODEFOR, ITTO & Financial donors	50

- Five nurseries (three around Guiglo village, one in Guinkin village and one in Bedi-Goazon village) were established with the participation of local communities, duly trained for that purpose by the technicians of SODEFOR, and produced 620,000 seedlings of Teak (*Tectona grandis*) and indigenous species (*Tieghemela heckelii*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, *Khaya ivorensis*, *Pericopsis elata*, *Mansonia altissima* and *Irvingia gabonensis*). Additional 200,000 seedlings were brought from the nursery established in the Gazetted Forest of Yapo-Abbe in order to meet the needs for the rehabilitation activities in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests;
- Around 1,043.67 ha had been planted with the involvement of local populations for the rehabilitation of the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests, with Teak and the abovementioned indigenous species; and
- The Executing Agency continued to encourage local communities of five villages (Zéaglo, Bedy-goazon, Guézon, Niambly and Tien-Oula) to be organized in associations or cooperatives, which were supported by the project for their involvement in the rehabilitation activities to be implemented in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests. The farming kits were also distributed to the abovementioned village communities, for the production of food crops associated with trees under the taungya agroforestry system during the rehabilitation activities implemented in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	666,255
ITTO Budget:		US\$	402,516
Government of Japan:	US\$	402,516	
Government of Ghana (in kind):		US\$	110,039
Michigan Technological University:		US\$	94,500
SAMARTEX (in kind):		US\$	59,200

Implementing Agency: Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLIV, November 2008, Yokohama
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2011 / 36 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension: December 2014 (NOLF.14-0125)

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

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

All activities planned under this project had been completed by the Executing Agency. The termination notice was sent in April 2016 and urged the Executing Agency to submit the Final Financial Audit Report, otherwise the project shall be recommended for termination to the Committee at its Fiftieth Session in November 2016. However, the Final Financial Audit Report, as well as the Completion Report, has not been received by the Secretariat up until the time of the preparation of this report. The Executive Agency informed the Secretariat that the preparation of the Completion Report was under way. Upon the receipt of the documents, including satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, Completion Report and other necessary documents, prior to its Fiftieth Session in November 2016, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,547,558
ITTO Budget:		US\$	656,630
Government of Japan (MoFA)	US\$	656,630	
EMBRAPA:		US\$	576,807
MMA:		US\$	263,271
IFT:		US\$	50,850

Implementing Agency:	Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (EMBRAPA), Belém, Pará
Period of Approval:	Spring 2008
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2008 Project Cycle. The Government of Brazil resubmitted the proposal with modified budget in 2011 seeking another opportunity for funding for 20 months. In 2013, the proposal was further modified in its budget and resubmitted for funding for an additional period of 20 months. The project was fully financed at the Fiftieth Session of the Council held in November 2014, and the Project Agreement was duly signed in December 2015.

The Executing Agency, however, came to request the Secretariat for the further modification of the project in its development objective, specific objective and expected outputs in order to focus its activities on the community forests and non-timber forest products (NTFP) in addition to the timber producing forests at a commercial scale. It was stressed by the Executing Agency that both categories of forests require interventions to advance sustainable forest management in the Brazilian Amazon.

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

The present development objective of this second-phase is, if not modified as requested by EMBRAPA, to encourage the adoption of good forest management practices by medium and large scale timber enterprises in the Brazilian Amazon through the transfer of the aforementioned tools having been developed. In particular, this project intends to: consolidate the tools to develop Tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM Tools); build capacity of training centres and universities of the Amazon region to transfer the SFM Tools to timber enterprises and government agencies responsible for forest management; evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of transferring the SFM Tools to timber enterprises; and disseminate project achievements and products to a large audience of relevant stakeholders.

The original major outputs include, among others: a set of SFM computer tools consolidated; guidelines to support SFM prepared; capacity of project collaborators for implementing training of SFM Tools strengthened; project clients trained in the use of SFM Tools; strategies for transfer of SFM Tools evaluated; and technical, social, financial and environmental impacts of changes caused by SFM adoption in selected timber enterprises evaluated.

In early 2016, the Inception Report was prepared by the Executing Agency based on the aforementioned modified objectives and outputs and submitted to the ITTO Secretariat, together with a request for the first installment of funds. However, the Executing Agency was informed by the ITTO Secretariat in June 2016 that all installments of funds to ITTO projects were to be suspended until further notice. The representatives from the Executing Agency, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the ITTO Secretariat had an informal meeting in June 2016 and agreed to await for the decision to be made by the Council at its 52nd Session in November 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: Institute of Amazonian Research and Development (IPDA) – New Executing Agency

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

Starting Date and Duration: July 2012 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until December 2016 (NOLF.15-0136)

The Council approved this project in the Spring of 2008. The revised proposal of this project was approved by the Council at its Forty-sixth Session and fully financed at the same session. In February 2011, a draft of the Project Agreement was forwarded to the Government of Brazil to review it jointly with IBENS, the original executing agency that was to implement the project. However, in April 2011 the Government of Brazil informed the ITTO Secretariat that IBENS had moved to the State of Bahia and could no longer act as the Executing Agency that needed to implement project activities in the State of Amazonas.

Therefore, the Government Brazil searched for another suitable executing agency and requested the ITTO Secretariat to consider the Institute of Amazonian Research and Development (IPDA) as the new

executing agency. In this light, the Government of Brazil further submitted to the Secretariat a formal request to change the Executing Agency together with a profile and other detailed information on IPDA. The ITTO Secretariat reviewed the documents and considered these to be justified, and IPDA was approved as the new Executing Agency at the Forty-fifth Session of the Committee in November 2011.

The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in January 2012. The first installment of funds was transferred in May 2012 after the submission of the Inception Report and the first Yearly Plan of Operations, as well as a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel from the Executing Agency and their approval by the ITTO Secretariat. The second and the third installments of funds were released in July 2014 and November 2015 respectively.

This project aims for the establishment of three areas under community control within the Maués State Forest for timber production, in accordance with management plans to be prepared as one of the project activities. The produced timber will be destined for the markets in the cities in the region, such as the cities of Maués and Parintins.

This project had faced administrative problem since its beginning. After hiring and termination the first two project coordinators, the third project coordinator was recruited and approved by the ITTO Secretariat in November 2015.

The new coordinator was able to mobilize communities to participate in the project. Administratively, the first move was to arrange an informal meeting in February 2016 in Brasilia with the representatives of IPDA, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC) and the ITTO Secretariat. The main objective of the meeting was to review the outdated project outputs and activities and prepare documents for the next meeting of the Project Steering Committee.

This SC meeting, for lack of new disbursements from ITTO, was suspended. In the meantime, it was possible to note a drastic change, from the side of the Executing Agency, for the preparations of progress reports and technical reports that meet the guidelines of the ITTO.

The Executing Agency submitted a request for the release of the fourth installment of funds in May 2016. However, due to the suspension of all installments of funds to ITTO projects in June 2016, the requested installment has not been released and the planned meeting of the Project Steering Committee has been suspended. The suspension of the installments has caused disappointment among the community members awaiting for the project implementation, as well as of the IPDA team. Nevertheless, the Executing Agency indicated its continued commitment to the implementation of this project.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	4,518,857.00
ITTO Budget:		US\$	3,890,681.00
Government of Japan:	US\$	3,523,645.00	
Government of Switzerland	US\$	270,000.00	
Government of Belgium	US\$	97,036.00	
RIFFEAC Training Institutions:		US\$	110,300.00

Implementing Agency: RIFFEAC Secretariat
 Period of Approval: Spring 2011
 Starting Date and Duration: April 2011 / 60 months

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

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

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

The project was further revised under the ITTO/CBD collaborative initiative to conserve tropical forest biodiversity [Council Decision 6(XLVI)], in close collaboration with the RIFFEAC institutions and the CBD Secretariat. Its budget was increased from US\$1,080,741 to US\$4,408,557. In relation to the application of Council Decision 4(XLVI), the revised version was posted on the ITTO internet homepage and approved through the time bound process on 06 July 2011. This project was partially financed at the Forty-seventh Session of the Council in Guatemala, in November 2011. The Agreement regulating the project implementation was signed in March 2012. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in April 2012.

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

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

- The progress made in contracting capital goods by the Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) for the benefit of seven RIFFEAC training institutions (CRESA-Yaounde in Cameroon, ENEF-Libreville in Gabon, ENEF-Mbalmayo in Cameroon, ERAIFT-Kinshasa in Democratic Republic of Congo, IDR-Brazzaville in Republic of Congo, ISDR-Mbaiki in Central African Republic and University of Dschang in Cameroon) directly involved in the project project implementation is presented in the following table:

Training institution and Country	Nature of contract	Name of contractor	Duration of contract (month)	Total budget (US\$)	Paid amount (US\$)	Remaining amount (US\$)
CRESA-Yaoundé, Cameroon	V	Leroy Beaulieu	2	78,334	26,168	52,166
	E.I.	INTERFACE	2	18,115	18,115	0
	C/R	MGS	3	62,010	62,010	0
	E.F.	ITKE	2	61,007	61,007	0
ENEF-Mbalmayo, Cameroon	V	Leroy Beaulieu	2	78,333	26,166	52,167
	C/R	Trinity	10	92,800	48,300	45,500
FASA-Dschang Université, Cameroon	V	Leroy Beaulieu	2	78,333	26,166	52,167
	E.I.	INTERFACE	2	18,115	18,115	0
	C/R	SISERCO	6	176,510	55,000	121,510
	E.F.	ITKE	2	61,008	61,008	0
ISDR-Mbaïki, Central African Republic	E.I.	Yang	2	49,962	49,962	0
	C/R	Groupe SYLVA	6	129,731	47,000	82,731
	E.F.	Yang	2	88,892	88,892	0

ENSAF-Brazzaville (ex. IDR), Rep. of Congo	V	CFAO Congo	2	65,328	65,328	0
	E.I.	CGR	2	34,842	34,842	0
	C/R	Co-Maison	6	180,027	0	180,027
ERAIFT-Kinshasa, D. R. Congo	E.I.	IT-COM	2	79,857	17,974	61,974
	V	CFAO RDC	2	74,214	0	74,214
	E.F.	GEOSCIENCE	3	84,500	68,000	16,500
TOTAL				1,511,918	739,211	772,707

C/R: construction/rehabilitation of buildings; E.F.: forestry equipment; E.I.: computer and accessories;
V: vehicle

- The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) continued the dissemination of twelve (12) reference training modules/programmes and associated teaching methodologies [six (6) at university level and six (6) at lower level], prepared and finalized by the University of Laval and CERFOR Technical Forestry Centre of Canada in consultation with RIFFEAC training institutions, to the seven RIFFEAC training institutions involved in the project implementation as well as to other RIFFEAC training institutions;
- Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) had been established for the follow-up of the operationalization/implementation of these twelve training modules/programme et associated teaching methodologies in all RIFFEAC training institutions, including those not directly supported by the project PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F). These TWGs had been interacting through Internet for the exchange of information on the gradual internalization of the reference training modules/programmes in each RIFFEAC training institution.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	258,674
ITTO Budget:	US\$	209,574
Government of Japan (FA):	US\$	209,574
Government of Thailand:	US\$	49,100

Implementing Agency: Royal Forest Department in collaboration with the Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Thailand

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLIII, November 2007, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: August 2013 / 24 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 31 December 2017 (NOLF.16-0066)

The Council approved the project at its Forty-third Session in November 2007. Financing was allocated at the Forty-fourth Session of the Council in November 2008. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was sent to the Royal Forest Department in January 2009. After a long delay, the project agreement was duly signed on 1 March 2011. After completion of the necessary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the project became operational in August 2013. The project duration was extended to the end of 2017 due to the delay of implementing many project activities.

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

Since the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee, the project activities have been focused on the identification of two national consultants to develop a draft national C&I for SFM and standards of performance for planted forests and community forests as well as a draft COC/tracking system in Thailand. After the development of the draft national C&I/SOP and COC/tracking system, testing of such drafts is expected to take place in pilot locations along with national consultation workshops. The Executing Agency submitted a proposal for the engagement of two national consultants with TOR in June 2016. However, the Executing Agency is reviewing the project activities considering the restructuring of the main project elements including the engagement of the two national consultants, in the light of the suspension of all installments of funds to all ITTO projects in June 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	430,424
ITTO Budget:	US\$	338,256
Government of Japan:	US\$	338,256
Government of Indonesia	US\$	92,168

Implementing Agency: Department of Watershed Control and Forest Protection, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia

Session of Approval: Spring 2009
Approval of validity extended during ITTC Session XLVI, Nov.2010, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: December 2015 / 36 months

This project was approved under Spring 2009 Project Cycle and the validity of the approval was extended at the Forty-sixth Session of the ITTC until Spring 2013. The project was ultimately financed at the Forty-eighth Session of the ITTC held in November 2012. The draft project agreement was sent to the Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia in January 2013. The project agreement was duly signed in October 2014. The Executing Agency submitted the Inception Report with a yearly plan of operation (YPO) for the first year and started the implementation of project activities in December 2015.

The significant delay in the implementation of this project in its preparatory stage resulted from the shift in the Executing Agency from the Provincial Government of Bengkulu, the proponent of this project, to the Ministry of Forestry. The project implementation further delayed due to the structural reform of the Government of Indonesia. The changes in salaries and automobile prices since the time of the formulation of this project have also impacted the project implementation considerably. Nevertheless, the project has made good progress since its inception as a result of the collaborative efforts of the national and provincial governments and other stakeholders.

The aim of this project is to rehabilitate and restore forests in Bengkulu Province and improve livelihoods of local communities through their involvement in the plantation of locally adapted and prospective commodity species. The specific objectives of this project are: (i) to implement suitable technology for the production of high quality planting materials of locally adapted and prospective commodity species; and (ii) to improve stakeholder involvement and community prosperity through successful plantation of these commodity species.

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

- Kayu Bawang (*Disoxylum mollissimum* Bl) and Durian (*Durio spp*) were selected as the locally adaptive and prospective commodity species for plantation. A stand of Kayu Bawang and a mother tree of Durian Buntara were identified as their seed sources by a team of experts and subsequently certified by the provincial and national governments respectively (Activity 1.1.1);

- Three sets of technical guidelines have been drafted for seed handling and plantation of the identified two commodity species. These three guidelines include: technical guidelines for the handling of seeds and seedlings of Kayu Bawang; technical guidelines for the propagation of seedlings of Durian Buntara; and technical guidelines for the plantation of Kayu Bawang and Durian Buntara (Activity 1.2.1);
- A total of 6,000 seedlings of Kayu Bawang were produced to develop demonstration plots and to distribute to local communities. For Durian Buntara, more than 2,000 rods were collected from the mother tree and its grafted trees, and the grafting work has been started to produce seedlings for distribution and to provide quality seedlings in the future (Activity 2.1.1);
- Based on the results of the consultations with the Collaborating Agency and participating communities, locations of the demonstration plot were identified for the two districts targeted in this project (Activity 2.2.2); and
- The baseline data were collected on the socio-economic conditions of the participating communities, as well as the vegetation and soil conditions of the demonstration plots (Activity 2.2.1).

The Project Steering Committee convened its second meeting and conducted a field visit in April 2016. The participants confirmed the steady progress in the implementation of this project through the close collaboration and consultations between the Executing Agency, Collaborating Agency and the participating local communities and other stakeholders, such as the owners of seed sources and a local seed breeder.

At its second meeting held in April 2016, the Project Steering Committee endorsed the reallocation of US\$ 4,800 for the procurement of a project vehicle, the price of which had significantly increased since the formulation of this project in 2008. The official request for this budget modification was approved subsequently. However, the purchase of the vehicle has been suspended due to the suspension of all installments of funds to ITTO projects in June 2016, and a four-wheel drive vehicle has been hired for the use of the project team paying higher costs.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	608,998
ITTO Budget:		US\$	492,588
Government of Japan:	US\$	350,000	
Government of USA:	US\$	142,588	
INAB:		US\$	116,410
Implementing Agency:	National Forest Institute – INAB		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLV, November 2009, Yokohama, Japan		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2013 / 36 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 31 July 2016 (NOLF.15-0181)		

The Council approved the project at its Forty-fifth Session in November 2009 and full financing for its implementation was pledged during its Forty-seventh Session in November 2011. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed on 2 April 2012. The first installment of funds was transferred at the end of March 2013, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of an inception report, the first yearly plan of operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation was about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second disbursement of funds was transferred to INAB in December 2013, the third one in October 2014, the fourth in May 2015, and the fifth in November 2015, all after verifying the executing agency's compliance with the conditions established for each of these payments.

Three very productive Project Steering Committee meetings took place in Guatemala City and the project's areas of influence, the first in November 2013, the second in September 2014 and the most recent one in August 2015. At this last meeting, the steering committee noted that the project continued to be implemented in a timely fashion following the original schedule developed for the project and that its

successful completion was expected by end of July 2016. However, due to the impairment of ITTO funds, the sixth and last disbursement of US\$ 50,000.00, requested by the Executing Agency at the beginning of May 2016, could not be transferred in a timely fashion. Based on this, INAB decided to minimally continue with some of the activities of the project with counterpart funds until such a time the last disbursement of ITTO funds could be transferred to the project for its successful completion.

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

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

Since the Forty-ninth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report submitted in February 2016, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

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

- The collection of information from existing permanent sample plot networks is about to be completed (85% progress);
- The statistical evaluation of the distribution and number of existing permanent sample plots has been finalized (100% progress);
- The monitoring, data compilation and systematization of existing permanent sample plots continues on an ongoing basis. Data has been collected from a total of 920 plots: 880 in plantations, 15 in natural conifer forests and 25 in natural deciduous forests (100% progress);
- 384 new permanent sample plots have been established in 9 of INAB's Regional Directorates, well beyond the originally 96 plots planned to be established by the project (400% progress);
- The systematization of new monitoring information collected from the existing permanent sample plots is almost completed (85% progress).

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

- The PSP software is in the process of being updated nationwide (60% progress);
- The prioritization of tree species to be included in the technological packages has been finalized (100%);
- The generation of growth and yield tables and curves for some of the prioritized species is progressing well (65% progress); and
- The elaboration of the technological packages for 12 timber species is underway and the one for Teak (*Tectona grandis*) has already been finalized (10%).

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

- The dissemination and outreach strategy continues to be implemented and several annual reports on forest dynamics in Guatemala have been generated (85% progress);
- Some interim results have been prepared and uploaded on INAB and SIFGUA websites (55% progress); and
- The design and publication of a geographic information system on permanent forest sample plots is well advanced (70% progress).

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

- The permanent training program for forest sector stakeholders is well underway, and to date 18 workshops and other training events have been organized (85% progress); and
- A strategy for disseminating the results continues to be implemented (65% progress).

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

The project was on track until many of its activities had to be put on hold due to the suspended release of the project's last instalment of funds resulted from the suspension of instalments of funds to all ITTO projects in June 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: Forestry Development Authority (FDA)

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

Starting Date and Duration: July 2009 / 30 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First Project extension: until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0019)
Second Project extension: until December 2016 (NOLF.16-0057)

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

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

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

During the last three years, no project's progress report was submitted by the Executing Agency in order to share information on progress in project implementation. The implementation of some project activities had been delayed because of the internal turnover of some personnel, involved in the project implementation, within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) which is the Executing Agency of this project. As recommended by the Forty-seventh session of the Committee, a special financial monitoring mission was carried by Mr. Manohar, ITTO Finance/Administration Officer, from 5 June to 2 July 2014, for an in-depth technical and financial assessment of the project implementation.

A project extension was granted until December 2016, without additional ITTO funds by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. However, no progress report has been submitted by the Executing Agency (FDA-Liberia) until the time of the preparation of this report. Therefore, no latest information is available to update the level of the execution of the activities of this project.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

The ITTO Secretariat received the Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of this report. Upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed at its Fiftieth Session in November 2016. Soft copies of the abovementioned Completion Report and other documents, such as technical reports and technical papers, will be made available by the Secretariat upon written request.

I. Introduction

This project was approved under Spring 2009 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system put in place, as there was no longer a Council Session organized in spring, and it was fully financed at the Forty-fifth Session of the Council in Yokohama, in November 2009. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 5 April 2010. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 8 April 2010. A project extension was granted until April 2015, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in July 2016, the project operation period had lasted 75 months instead of 48 initially designed by the implementing agency (FORIG).

II. Project Objective

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

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The problem of mahogany shoot borer (*Hypsipyla robusta*) had attracted a great deal of attention from foresters, ecologists, entomologists and plant breeders, but previous attempts at managing this important insect pest had largely been unsuccessful in tropical forests. Current efforts controlling the mahogany shoot borer in West Africa and elsewhere had increased markedly with integrated management approaches (selection of pest resistant planting stocks combined with biological, chemical and silvicultural control measures to minimize pest infestation). The project main goal was to improving shoot borer resistance and developing silvicultural systems, in order to maximize mahogany plantation successes.

The main project achievements, in relation to the expected outputs and associated activities, can be summarized as follows:

- A practical handbook for plantation development in the tropics has been developed to guide farmers and other stakeholders interested in establishing plantations with Mahogany species;
- Techniques and methods for establishing mixed indigenous mahogany plantations have been developed after appropriate field trials;
- Plantation stands of the indigenous mahogany in pure and mixtures with other important species have been established across the major ecological zones of Ghana as demonstration plots;
- *Hypsipyla*-tolerant genotypes have been identified and techniques of cloning them through vegetative propagation have been done;
- Silviculture management techniques such as pruning, shade were applied in field trails to evaluate the impact on reducing the pest incidence, while biological control measures were also adapted in the execution of the project (introduction of natural enemies of the pest such as pathogens, parasitoids and predators which ends up feeding on the pest and thus limiting their intensity);
- Wood technological properties of mahogany have been documented into a handbook to promote policy making on species to be included in future reforestation programmes and also to arouse interest of investors;
- International conference on Sustainable production and management of mahogany in plantations in Tropical Africa was organized in CSIR-FORIG with participants from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Benin, Togo, Malaysia, Thunen Institute of Forest Genetics (Germany), and Michigan Technological University (USA);
- Thirty undergraduate students had internship on the project and twelve undergraduate theses were developed from the technical data and information gathered through the project implementation;
- Five masters students, from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology of Kumasi (Ghana), were accepted on the project to facilitate their studies and research work;
- Three PhD students utilized some aspects of the project findings for their dissertation in collaboration with Michigan Technological University (USA);
- Two technical reports and 11 technical papers (published in reputable scientific journals) were produced through the implementation of this project, while posters were presented in international meetings (Mahogany International Conference in Kumasi, Ghana; IUFRO Congress in Salt Lake City, USA; World Forestry Congress in Durban, South Africa; IUFRO-FORNESSA regional Congress in Nairobi, Kenya; 23rd USDA Research Forum in Annapolis, Maryland, USA; etc.). These technical reports and technical papers are available in http://www.itto.int/project_search/.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

Mahogany species (Meliaceae: Swietenidae) had been threatened by overexploitation of natural forest reserves and the prevention of successful plantation culture by a single pest species, the shoot boring moth *Hypsipyla robusta*, that devastates young stands by killing main stems, causing excessive forking and branching, and, in worst cases, contributing to mortality. This project had demonstrated an integrated management strategy for plantation establishment incorporating a number of pest management measures based on sound experimental evaluation.

Thus, the concept underlying this project was to enhance the sustainability of mahogany timber through the development of an integrated pest management strategy for *Hypsipyla robusta*, in relation to the establishment of forest plantations of mahogany in Ghana. For that purpose, selected clones of superior mahoganies that had been ecologically adapted and insect-tolerant had been identified for seven indigenous mahoganies (*Khaya grandifoliola*, *Khaya ivorensis*, *Khaya anthotheca*, *Entandrophragma utile*, *Entandrophragma cylindricum*, *Entandrophragma angolense* and *Entandrophragma candollei*). These superior mahoganies had been subject to mass production of seedlings for distribution to all partners interested in the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands in the main ecological zones of Ghana.

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

The main beneficiaries of the project findings include: timber industries, communities organized under Osiem Saviour Church; Ghana Forestry Commission, private plantations investors, etc. To arouse interest of industrial partners and private investors, wood quality studies of plantation grown mahogany compared with natural ones was explored. Mahogany plantations had often been attacked at the early stages of their growth

with the potential risk of deformation of trees. Determination of wood quality and lumber properties was very necessary as it provided facts on the value of mature plantation grown mahoganies compared to the trees in natural forest of the same age. In addition sawing characteristics of *Hypsipyla robusta* infested mature logs of mahogany from plantation and natural forest was examined. Anatomical and mechanical properties studies were also carried out on plantation and naturally grown mahoganies of similar sizes.

The implementation of the mahogany project has been effective and educative as valuable information has been provided for sustainable management of mahogany in plantations. The project built active community participation which has renewed the interest of other community farmers and tree growers to engage in future plantation development programs with the establishment of indigenous species such as mahogany for sustainability of the Ghana forest estate. Community farmers become interested and willing to participate in any plantation programme that would improve their farming activities and livelihoods in the short term. The tree-crop interface had generated series of tangible and intangible benefits to enhance the overall productivity of the crops and trees. When trees had been mixed with crops in agroforestry system, the farm produce provides subsistence income for local communities as short term benefit. Awareness campaigns contributed to mobilize the farming communities for the establishment of mixed forest plantations with economically viable techniques tested during the project implementation. The project also contributed to the sectoral policies and programs on forest plantations by promoting of the development of plantations programs, in order to enhance sustainable supply of timber to meet the current needs and future demands, in Ghana.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The main lesson learned, in relation to the smooth implementation of this project, is dealing with the early involvement of community farmers and industrial partners/investors to ascertain the implementation of some project activities, on the basis of a memorandum of understanding signed with relevant stakeholders at the beginning of the project implementation. These stakeholders had already collaborated during the implementation of the first phase of this project [PD 105/01 Rev.3 (F)]. The need for an integrated approach to manage *Hypsipyla robusta* has been repeatedly identified by stakeholders as the most promising solution which could contribute to overcoming this pest problem, as damage by the shoot borer had been the overriding factor restricting the successful establishment of mahogany plantations. The achievement of the project specific, as set by the project document, could be attributed to the full commitment and diligence of all the stakeholders involved in the implementation of an integrated pest management approach.

During the project implementation, farmers were therefore introduced to sustainable livelihood activities and nursery management which they could apply to produce seedlings of cash crops like cocoa, coffee and cashew to generate income. Basic nursery equipment were supplied to initiate the nursery work. With the help of the Forest service divisions, and the project team, plantation designs that incorporated much of farmers food crops were adapted in the farming. This avoided unnecessary demands by the farmers for funds which facilitated the progress of the project.

The executing agency signed an MOU with the industrial partners (SAMARTEX, ABTS and APSD) for smooth implementation of the project activities and also for continuity of the project after completion. The project team will therefore conduct assessment and maintenance of the stands annually with support from the industries till the trees reach a merchantable size for harvest. The community farmers involved in the farm forestry also have responsibilities of protecting the trees on their lands and regular monitoring will be conducted by the field team trained on the project. Established stands on research plots within the major ecological zones will be frequently be monitored and maintained by the project team at CSIR-FORIG.

The sustainability of the project after completion will also depend on the Forestry Commission of Ghana (FCG) which added mahogany species to the national plantation program, as FCG is the biggest stakeholder. In current and future forest plantation programs. Free seedlings of superior mahoganies, selected during the implementation of this project, should be provided to the community farmers in order to sustain the rural farmers interest in establishing mixed forest plantations.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	642,534
ITTO Budget:		US\$	569,665
Government of Japan:	US\$	569,665	
Government of Ghana (in kind):		US\$	72,869
Implementing Agency:	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)		
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2010		
Starting Date and Duration:	March 2012 / 36 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First project extension: until March 2016 (NOLF.15-0137) Second project extension: until December 2016 (NOLF.16-0070)		

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

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

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

The Executing Agency informed the ITTO Secretariat that all activities of this project would be completed by the time of the Fiftieth Session of the Committee and the Completion Report would be prepared and submitted on time. However, the last installment of ITTO funds was not released because of the suspension of all installments of funds to ITTO projects in June 2016. In response to the suggestion from the ITTO Secretariat that every effort should be made to achieve the project objectives with the use of funds that had already been disbursed, the Executive Agency decided in June 2016 to reduce the budget by US\$ 57,070 and complete the project without receiving last installment of ITTO funds. The request for the budget modification was subsequently approved by the ITTO Secretariat.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	828,576
ITTO Budget:		US\$	644,814
Government of Japan:	US\$	644,814	
Government of PNG:		US\$	183,762

Implementing Agency: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority
 Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLV, Nov.2009, Yokohama, Japan
 Starting Date and Duration: January 2012 / 36 months
 Approved Revised Date of First extension until 31 December 2015 (NOLF.15-0004)
 Project Completion: Second extension until 31 December 2016 (NOLF.16-0067)

This project was approved in November 2009 and financed in November 2010. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in May 2010. After completing necessary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the Implementing Agency started the implementation of project activities in January 2012. Since the implementation of some activities has been delayed, the project duration was extended until the end of 2016.

The objective of the project is to create a model reforestation framework that encourages customary landowners in the Central Province lowlands to grow high value trees on their grasslands. The successful implementation of the project will lead to the expansion of long-term social, environmental and economic benefits for landowners in the Central Province lowlands through development of reforestation enterprises to promote an appropriate set of business models and production systems. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) will be a focal species to be promoted through a range of model business arrangements and production systems. The expected outputs of the project include: a reforestation awareness programme is in operation for landowners and the wider community in Central Province; a business training & support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises; an agro-forestry training & support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises; and a distribution system is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises with agro-forestry stock and materials.

Since the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee in November 2015, the minimal progress of project activities has been made in connection to Output 1 (A reforestation awareness programme is in operation for landowners and the wider community) and Output 4 (A distribution system is in operation providing (agro) forestry stock and materials for reforestation enterprises). The payment of the fourth installment of ITTO funds has been stalemated since 2015 because no financial audit reports had been submitted for the years 2014 and 2015. The Executing Agency finally submitted the required financial audit reports in early 2016; however, the fourth installment to the Executing Agency has not been released due to the suspension of all installments of funds to ITTO projects in June 2016. It is viewed that the project will not make any significant progress without receiving subsequent installments of funds.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	666,710
ITTO Budget:		US\$	73,710
APFNet	US\$	460,000	
Government of Malaysia		US\$	133,000

Implementing Agency: Forest Department of Sarawak
 Period of Approval: Spring 2011
 Starting Date and Duration: September 2015 / 24 months

This project was approved under 2011 Spring Project Cycle and financed by APFNet under the MOU between ITTO and APFNet on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management. The project agreement between APFNet, ITTO and Sarawak Forest Department was finalized on 23 March 2015 with a launching ceremony of the project in Miri, Sarawak which was attended by Executive Director of ITTO, Executive Director of APFNet and Minister of Planning and Resource Management of Sarawak. After concluding the

necessary administrative arrangements, the project became operational in September 2015. In project implementation, ITTO will be facilitating the implementation of the project as a supervisory agency.

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

Since the commencement of the project in September 2015, the implementation of the project in relation to its two outputs can be summarized as follows:

Output 1: Improvement in Community Forest Management

- Carried out a socio-economic survey assisted by university students on the two communities' socio-economic status and the catchment's forest resources. A forest resource survey of selected sites in the catchment was also carried out;
- Conducted a participatory natural resource mapping of forest areas far from the project villages with identification of priorities and strategies for development of forest resource;
- Collect relevant information and data on traditional models for protection and sustainable use of forest resources within communities through Interviews and a field survey;
- Initiated the identification of high conservation value forests for each target community; and
- Introduced suitable high value tree species to increase the local farmers' income from forest plantations with the identification of promising NTFPS.

Output 2: Capacity of the Community on Development Enhanced

- For alternative livelihoods, conducted the demonstration of fish raising, poultry raising and vegetable cropping and initiated the development of a home stay program for eco-tourism. Each selected household learned at first-hand new skills to increase their livelihood;
- Initiated gravelling of 7 km of Road from Camp Kilo to Long Napir and the construction of more than 1km of road to Kampong Bahagia;
- Identified the location of a multi-function meeting hall with the collection of sand and stones for Penan guesthouse renovations and extension; and
- Installed the first two solar power systems; they are working. The consultant expects to collect usage data to determine the system's performance.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	565 523
ITTO Budget:		US\$	345,840
Government of Japan:	US\$	345,840	
Government of Togo:		US\$	219 683
Modified ITTO Budget:		US\$	306,890

Implementing Agency: Office de développement et d'exploitation des forêts (ODEF)

Period of Approval: November 2011

Starting Date and Duration: April 2013 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of
Project Completion:

First extension: December 2016 (NOLF.16-0101)

The ITTO Secretariat received the Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of this report. Upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed at its Fiftieth Session in November 2016.

I. Introduction

This project was approved under Autumn 2011 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012. The Project Agreement has been signed by the parties in January 2013. The project implementation started in April 2013, after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO. A project extension was granted until December 2016, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget.

However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in August 2016, the project operation period had lasted 40 months instead of 36 initially designed by the implementing agency (FORIG). The completion report was submitted in August 2016, four months prior to the approved new date of project completion (December 2016). This was in accordance with the recommendation of the ITTO Secretariat asking the executing agency (EA) to make every effort to achieve the objectives of this project using the funds that had already been disbursed to the EA (letter L.16-0065 of 09 June 2016), due to the financial impairment issue under investigation. That's why the ITTO budget was modified in May 2016 to take into account the reduction for an amount of US\$38,950 in light of the foreseen suspension of the last installment of ITTO funds (NOLF.16-0111).

II. Project Objective

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

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

In Togo data collection, processing and storage and the establishment of plantation and forest maps had been conducted in a rudimentary way, which explained the non-availability on time and the lack of reliable data, making appropriate forest management decisions difficult. The executing agency had either deleted or merged some sub-activities, as the last instalment of ITTO funds for an amount US\$38,950 was not disbursed because of the financial impairment issue. The implementation of this project had contributed to address this problem through the achievements and outputs summarized as follows:

- 1) The collection and processing of forest sector data had been operationalized in Togo with the use of modern equipment and materials (computers and accessories, GPS, scanners, digital cameras, etc.) and appropriate methodologies (ArcGIS software and other usual softwares for statistical calculation);
- 2) Selected representatives from Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources, ODEF as executing agency, were trained in the use of the abovementioned equipment and materials, as well as modern methodologies, allowing them to operationalize the geographical information system (GIS) for the sustainable management of the forest areas in Togo;
- 3) A system of centralized geo-spatial information for the management of forests in Togo had been put in place through the implementation of this project. This system had been made operational for data collection, verification and centralization process with officers trained by the project. The tasks of these trained officers had consisted in ensuring the regional coordination of the various data collection work on natural forests and forest plantations in these regions and forward the data to the centralized structure for the creation of the database, for the sustainable management of the forest areas in Togo.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The forestry sector of Togo had been characterized by a lack of geo-spatial information and data, representing a main barrier for the planning of forestry development. Therefore, it was important for Togo to

establish and organize a system of information on the forestry sector. This project had established a Geographic Information System (GIS) in forestry sector, which, through the committed involvement of the entire forestry administration, had facilitated the operation of a centralized management of geo-spatial data and information of the forestry sector. The GIS could be a good for the production of information and data needed to address the requirements of the FLEGT Programme of the European Union.

This GIS had also enabled the fast production of maps and facilitated the management of the following gazetted forests: Sirka, Eto, Tchologo and Amakpape. It had thus provided a decision tool for understanding ongoing forestry activities and the development of future policies to help sustainably manage forests in Togo. The draft maps of the abovementioned gazetted forests had been prepared as a pilot cases regarding the utilization of the computer equipment and materials, as well as the use of the software ArcGIS, by trained ODEF staff members based in Lomé and in the following five administrative regions of Togo:

- Region Maritime covering a 610,000-ha of forest area distributed over 7 prefectures;
- Region des Plateaux covering 1,697,500 ha forest area distributed over 12 prefectures;
- Region du Centre covering 1,350,000 ha of forest area distributed over 4 prefectures;
- Region de Kara covering 1,162,500 ha of forest area distributed over 7 prefectures; and
- Region des Savannes covering 853,400 ha of forest area distributed over 5 prefectures.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

For the successful implementation of this project, the main lesson learned was the appropriate process regarding the problem identification and analysis, carried out prior to the project formulation, with the involvement of main relevant stakeholders. Those stakeholders were involved in the implementation of some project activities and therefore contributed to the achievement of the project specific objective as set by the project document.

The executing agency (ODEF) had been equipped with appropriate equipment and materials for the continuation of operating the GIS established for the management of forest areas in Togo. For its sustainability, the project had put in place a team trained and permanent staff members for the daily operation of the GIS. It is important to note that the GIS expert is based in Lomé (Togo) and can be mobilized for training sessions, in due time, for the personnel from the executing agency (ODEF) and the Ministry of Environment and Forest Resources (MERF). Therefore, it could be possible to avoid being in the position of lack of qualified staff members in both institutions when a turnover of personnel is undertaken for legal administrative reasons. The running costs of the established GIS had been included in the regular annual budget of the appropriate division of ODEF, in order to ensure continuity.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

This project was approved under the Spring 2012 Project Cycle and was fully financed at the Forty-ninth Session in November 2013 at Libreville, Gabon. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in September 2014. The first instalment of funds was transferred in November 2014, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second disbursement of funds was transferred in December 2015.

In June 2016 MDA received a notification from the ITTO Secretariat indicating that all project fund disbursements needed to be suspended until further notice due to some internal financial arrangements. Based on this, MDA decided to put the project on hold until such a time the ITTO funds could continue to be transferred to the project. The Secretariat has received a notification from MDA indicating the Executing Agency's intention to resume the project's activities as soon as ITTO could manage to release the next tranche of funds for the project. Many letters of support have also been received from the regional, municipal and local governments and communities highlighting the importance of this project for the sustainable development of the region and requesting the ITTC to consider continuing to provide funds for the successful completion of the project.

Mangrove forests constitute one of the most vulnerable ecosystems to climate change, while at the same time being an ecosystem that can sequester and store amongst the highest volumes of carbon. The National System for Natural Protected Areas (SINANPE) has contributed to the sustainability of mangrove ecosystems by establishing the National Sanctuary of Tumbes Mangroves (Santuario Nacional de los Manglares de Tumbes – SNLMT). However, there are insufficient participatory mechanisms for the overall conservation of mangrove forest ecosystems in the Piura and Tumbes regions. This in turn leads to low living standards for the communities living in degraded mangrove ecosystem areas, and the resultant loss of biodiversity.

To address this situation, this proposal envisages improving the standard of living of the population in mangrove ecosystem areas in the regions of Tumbes and Piura. More specifically, it will increase the number of participatory mechanisms for mangrove forest protection, conservation and rehabilitation in the regions of Tumbes and Piura through: (1) Adequate use of legal powers by regional and local governments for the conservation of mangrove forests; (2) Improving the level of forest administration and management so as to preserve mangrove ecosystems; and (3) Developing and implementing financial sustainability strategies for mangrove forests.

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

Since the Forty-ninth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports submitted in February and August 2016, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

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

- Several inter-institutional meetings have been held between the regional and local governments, universities, SERNANP, PRONANP and MDA to discuss the training need of regional and local government officers in environmental standards and regulations.
- Based on the aforementioned meetings, the National University of Tumbes organized a post-graduate diploma in "Participatory Environmental Management for the Conservation of Mangroves and Dry Forests". 35 students obtained their diploma during the project's first year and a similar number is expected to graduate in the second year;
- Many meetings have been organized and technical assistance has further been provided to regional, municipal and local governments as regards their environmental management instruments and others;
- The project participated in the 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves held at Lima, Peru in March 2016, where project staff actively participated and negotiated the extension of the Noroeste Amotapes – Manglares Biosphere Reserve so as to include the Tumbes Mangrove National Reserve, which was approved at this congress. This biosphere reserve, off the northern coast of Peru was designated in 1977 under the name of Noroeste Biosphere Reserve. It now includes the Cerros de Amotape National Park, Coto El Angolo and Tumbes Mangroves Protected Area. The extension covers a surface area of 1,115,947ha. The project also presented several posters and distributed several brochures; and

- Coordination continues with competent authorities for the legal recognition of 3 new protected areas in mangrove ecosystems: the Tumbes Mangrove Ecosystem – Dry Forest Biological Corridor, and the San Pedro de Vice Mangrove Forest and Mangrove Forest of Vichayal in the Department of Piura.

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

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

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

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

The project was on track until many of its activities had to be put on hold due to the suspended project's last installment of funds resulted from the suspension of all instalments of funds to ITTO projects in June 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	616,163
ITTO Budget:		US\$	350,402
Government of Japan:	US\$	300,402	
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
WWF - Panama:		US\$	101,961
ANAM:		US\$	163,800

Implementing Agency: WWW – PANAMA OFFICE

Period of Approval: Spring 2012

Starting Date and Duration: December 2014 / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system put in place, and full financing for its implementation was pledged at the Forty-ninth Session in November 2013 at Libreville, Gabon. The final agreement regulating the implementation of the project was duly signed in December 2014. The first installment of funds was transferred in January 2015, after the submission, by the Executing Agency, of the first Yearly Plan of Operations, a request for the no-objection of the project's key personnel and a notification that implementation is about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second and third disbursements of funds were respectively carried out in September 2015 and April 2016.

Currently this project only requires the fourth and last disbursement of funds in the amount of US\$ 70,000.00 in order to successfully achieve its objectives and outputs. However, in June 2016 WWF Panama received a notification from the ITTO Secretariat indicating that all project fund disbursements needed to be suspended until further notice due to some internal financial arrangements. Based on this, WWF Panama decided to minimally continue with some of the activities of the project with counterpart funds until such a time the ITTO funds could continue to be transferred to the project. The Secretariat has received a

notification from WWF Panama indicating the Executing Agency's intention to fully resume the project's activities as soon as ITTO could manage to release the last tranche of funds for the project. The project was being implemented as originally scheduled and would have been successfully completed within the allocated timeframe had the ITTO financial impairment not occurred.

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

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

Since the Forty-ninth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports submitted in February and August 2016, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

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

- Meetings continue to be promoted with the participation of various private and public social stakeholders on the significance of adopting a strategy and reaching agreements to reduce illegal logging and on factors influencing and affecting forest goods and services (80% progress);
- Major gaps in government standards and regulations as well as in governance structures have been identified, with a view towards proposing a new forestry law (100% progress); and
- An institutional resolution created the National Committee on Forest Management so as to facilitate and promote the adoption of mechanisms for illegal logging control and enhance forest governance and accountability levels (60% progress).

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

- A chain-of-custody system for timber utilizing bar codes/chips has been promoted among authorities, forest industries and communities, and its design has been initiated (50% progress).

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

- A regency system for the co-enforcement of standards and regulations established by government agencies with the participation of the national association of forest professionals was developed but currently has several deficiencies that were assessed in order to improve the system (100% progress);

- The obstacles causing the forest reGENCY system was studied and an action plan to eliminate the barriers was developed (100% progress);
- A new forest reGENCY regulation is being developed (30% progress);
- Forest activities are being characterized and arranged by operation size so as to identify fast-track mechanisms for the issuing of harvesting permits(500% progress); and
- A workshop on the provisions for the issuing of harvesting permits was organized to the benefit of 37 participants from the government, forestry sector and forest communities (50% progress);

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

- The timber flows in the Darien Region were characterized and quantified (100% progress);
- Based on the aforementioned study, the Ministry of Environment thought it best to establish 5 fixed and 19 mobile checkpoints in the Bayano and Darien Sub-regions. The project provided these checkpoints with communication systems and timber chain-of-custody and traceability software. These checkpoints became operational during the 2015 logging season in Darien (80% progress); and
- Training of personnel in charge of checkpoints is underway (25% progress);

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

- A communication and outreach strategy for the promotion of timber in responsible markets, including development of responsible purchasing awareness campaign and production of outreach materials, has been designed and further submitted to the Ministry of Environment for its approval, which is expected shortly (75% progress); and
- The signing of a cross-sectoral forest governance agreement specifying mechanisms, roles and commitments for illegal forest trade prevention and control for each forest chain stakeholder is currently being facilitated and at least 3 purchasing policies/agreements /programs/plans between organized producers and the local forest industry for the use of timber from sustainably managed forests is being promoted (25% progress).

This project was on track until many of its activities had to be put on hold due to the suspended project's last instalment of funds resulted for the suspension of all instalments of funds to ITTO projects in June 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,214,479
ITTO Budget:		US\$	941,559
Government of Japan:	US\$	84,661	
Government of Japan (MoFA)	US\$	350,000	
Government of Switzerland	US\$	503,486	
Government USA	US\$	3,412	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	272,920

Implementing Agency: Betung Kerihun National (BKNP), Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA), Ministry of Forestry (MOF)

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLVII, Nov.2011, La Antigua, Guatemala,

Starting Date and Duration: October 2013 / 48 months

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

The main objective of the project is to promote the sustainable conservation management of the Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) established in 1992 covering around 800,000 ha, as a transboundary ecosystem between west Kalimantan, Indonesia and Sarawak, Malaysia. The project's transboundary conservation cooperation is focused with the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) and the Batang Ai National Park (BANP) in Sarawak which are adjacent to BKNP in west Kalimantan, Indonesia. The expected outputs of the project are: (1) cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia for the conservation of transboundary ecosystem between BKNP and BANP/LEWS; (2) formulation of an operational work plan on biodiversity conservation for the transboundary ecosystems; and (3) improved sustainable livelihoods of the local communities within and surrounding BKNP.

Since the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee in November 2015 and in accordance with the project's most recent progress reports, progress in project implementation can be summarized as follows:

- Implemented two internship programs in Sarawak on 5 - 9 November 2015 based on the Letter of Intent (LOI) signed by BKNP and FDS Authorities on 5 October 2015. This LOI aims to carry out training on Semah fish raising, and to assist local communities in the production of quality gaharu commodity. The first program was devoted to Indonesian participants while the second one was devoted primarily for Sarawakian local communities interested in gaharu commodity development;
- Developed a concept note for the organization of a regional workshop on Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) involving ASEAN countries on 8-12 August 2016; posted the first announcement of the regional workshop on ITTO website. However, this workshop was postponed due to unavailability of the necessary funds due to ITTO suspension of payments to all projects since June 2016;
- Continued to facilitate dialogues and communication between BKNP and head of local communities (Tumenggung) in development and implementation of Action Plan. Tumenggung of five villages have signed an agreement with BKNP to work together in conservation;
- Conducted training on the production of biogas energy using readily available local raw Materials with the engagement of Sri Wahyuni from Woman Inovation Foundation (Yayasan Perempuan Inovasi Mandiri);
- Promoting village ecotourism is under way by holding intensive dialogues with villagers, village officials and District Government of Kapuas Hulu. Intensive learning and consultations are ongoing with ADB, TFCA Kalimantan, GIZ/KFW For-Climate, HOB Secretariat and Kapuas Hulu government for collaboration opportunities;
- Involvement of women in ecotourism development is under way. A group of women has been trained on cloth weaving and colouring of traditional in surrounded buffer villages;
- Reviewed the conduct of a feasibility study on community-based carbon and biodiversity conservation REDD+ project; and
- Organized two community patrol trainings in western and eastern parts of BKNP with the development of a training module by the Center for Forestry Education and Training. A training of biodiversity monitoring and Agarwood inoculation in Bungan and Lokang Villages, buffer zone of BKNP was also organized for promotion of NTFP.

Since June 2016 when ITTO suspended all installments of funds to ITTO projects, the minimal implementation has been maintained in the project activities in order to keep the momentum created among stakeholders by this project. It is expected that the aforementioned regional workshop on TBCA in ASEAN will take place in the first half of 2017 with the timely installments of funds to be released as a result of the Fifty-second Session of the Council in November 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	\$1,421,925
ITTO Budget:		US\$	517,450
Government of Japan:	US\$	242,690	
JLIA	US\$	50,000	
Government Switzerland	US\$	224,760	
Government of Malaysia		US\$	904,475

Implementing Agency: Forest Department of Sarawak

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLVIII, Nov.2012, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: August 2014 / 24 months

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

The development objective of this project is to contribute to the integrated development of buffer zones for the environmental conservation and the uplifting livelihoods of indigenous communities in Sarawak. Its specific objective is to secure the buffer zone forests for the indigenous communities' use and to strengthen conservation management for Pulong Tau National Park (PTNP). These objectives are achieved by: establishing a 6,000 hectare buffer zone and its integrated management; securing its forest resource base to meet the needs of Penan communities; and providing the Penan communities with trainings to improve their livelihoods, with the active involvement of stakeholders. The project is being carried out by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) through its Community Service Initiative Unit (CSIU).

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

- Based on the results of the ecological and flora survey conducted in the first year, technical report has been drafted. The information gained from this survey has been used to identify the areas of communal forests to be established for Penan communities (Activity 2.1);
- Based on the results of the faunal survey on ground mammals, birds and insects conducted in the first year, technical report has been drafted and edited. The gained information has also been used to identify communal forests (Activity 2.2);
- The areas of three communal forests have been identified for the four Penan villages located adjacent to the park boundaries. Some portions of the proposed communal forests are located within the Totally Protected Area (TPA) of the park (Activity 2.4);
- On-the-job trainings on buffer zone management, farming practices and handicraft development have been continued. The need for continued interaction was recognized for further improving the knowledge base and advancing mutual understanding between the members of the communities and the project team (Activity 3.1);
- Trainings on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) have been conducted focussing on the plantation and maintenance of fruit trees and sago palms, based on the results of the previous ITTO project (Activity 3.2); and
- One of the Penan communities agreed to introduce *tagang* fisheries and has started its practice in a nearby stream. Other Penan communities are still hesitant about this innovative method of freshwater resource management (Activity 3.3).

At the second meeting of the Project Steering Committee held in April 2016, the following two additional activities were approved, to respond to the request from the Penan communities, and subsequently implemented:

- Trainings on carpentry and electrical wiring work; and
- Health care, including dental care, general health screening, family planning and hygiene.

This project has been making good progress with the exceptional efforts of the Executing Agency with the allocation of significant amount of funds and through the close consultation with the Penan communities and other stakeholders. The only exception was the withdrawal of an activity to construct field centre cum rangers' station (Activity 1.2) due to the unexpected land claim by indigenous families.

The Project Steering Committee also endorsed a six month extension without additional funds at its second meeting in April 2016, and the requested extension was subsequently approved to allow the project enough time to complete the following work:

- Consultation with the logging companies for the establishment of communal forests (Activity 2.4);
- Collection of field information for the development of buffer zone guidelines (Activity 1.3); and
- Publication of technical reports (Activity 2.3).

The full completion of this project relies on the last installment of ITTO funds of US\$ 100,000, which has been suspended due to the suspension of installments of funds to all ITTO projects in June 2016.

(22) PD 646/12 Rev.3 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Cempaka Tree Species (*Elmerrillia* spp) Through Plantation Development with Local Community Participation in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	564,037
ITTO Budget:		US\$	435,187
Government of Japan:	US\$	435,187	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	128,850
Implementing Agency:	Manado Forestry Research Institute (MFRI), Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	February 2016 / 36 months		

This project was approved under Spring 2013 Project Cycle but was financed at ITTC 50 in November 2014. The project agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in June 2015. After the completion of all administrative arrangements including appointment of project personnel and preparation of an inception report with a detailed yearly plans of operation, the Executing Agency commenced the project in February 2016.

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

Since the commencement of the project in February 2016, key activities implemented by the Executing Agency include:

- Reviewed available information on cempaka's silviculture techniques with the appointment of a national consultant and conducted experiments on appropriate techniques for cempaka seed collection, storage and germination with the appointment of qualified experts from MFRI;
- Conducted dialogues on long-term benefits of cempaka plantation with 20 villages in three districts;
- Conducted a survey on growing stock and distribution of cempaka species with the appointment of Sam Ratulangi as a sub-contractor;
- Initiated the preparation of a draft plan for establishing a 30 ha of a demonstration plot using improved silviculture techniques in the three districts; and
- Organized the first PSC meeting on 19 May 2016 with the attendance of key stakeholders including the head of North Sulawesi Province Forestry Service. The first PSC meeting recommendations include: formulation of Provincial strategy and policy to support sustainable cempaka plantation development and efficient utilization of cempaka resource with involvement of local communities; and strengthen coordination with the district governments of Minahasa, North Minahasa and South Minahasa Regency in cempaka resource development and utilization.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	324,088
ITTO Budget:		US\$	245,272
Government of Japan:	US\$	245,272	
Government of Ghana:		US\$	78,816

Implementing Agency: PICODEV-Ghana

Period of Approval: April 2012

Starting Date and Duration: May 2013 / 24 months

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of this report. Upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed at its Fiftieth Session in November 2016.

I. Introduction

The 24-month project was approved under Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. The Project Agreement had been signed by the parties in January 2013. The project initiated implementation in May 2013 following the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in March 2016, the project operation period had lasted 34 months instead of 24 initially designed by the implementing agency (PICODEV-Ghana).

II. Project Objective

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

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

In order to ensure a participatory implementation of the project, the project implementing team and stakeholders had discussed and adopted a multi-dimensional project strategy that had contributed to achieving maximum results, including important aspects on the promotion of rural private timber cultivation techniques in terms of land preparation, seedlings procurement and seedlings production, seedlings planting, as well as overall forest plantations maintenance. The main goal was to ensure active (cross-segment) involvement relevant stakeholders in decision-making, during the project implementation, leading to greater commitment of local communities, as well as to interactive operations, outputs, and outcomes. The main project achievements and outputs are described here below.

The main project achievements, in relation to the expected outputs and associated activities, can be summarized as follows:

- One thousand and two hundred (1,200) young women and young men of the six communities (Ahenkro, Tayi, Ntunda, Tepo, Bumbula and Akposo-Kabo villages) had successfully established six mixed forest plantations of 50 acres each, as demonstration plots, with the following indigenous tree species: *Emire*, *Ofram*, *Dodowa*, *Sofo*, *Onyina*, *Papao*, *Wawa*, and *West African Mahogany*;
- One thousand and two hundred (1,200) young women and young men of the six communities had established six (6) demonstration plots of 50 acres each, with the following exotic tree species: *Teak* (for timber and poles) and *Cassia* (for fuel-wood);
- One thousand and two hundred (1,200) youth members of six local communities involved in the project implementation (that is, young women and men) had been organized in an association for the management of the cassava processing machine. The aim had been to ensure added value to raw cassava, produced in agroforestry plantations combining cassava and other crops with the abovementioned tree species;
- These young women and men were also trained on reforestation skills, including seeds collection and treatment, nursery establishment and management, seedlings transplanting and maintenance, forest plantation management, and forest plantation protection (bush fire prevention).

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

This multi-dimensional project consisted of the cultivation of indigenous like *Emire*, *Ofram*, *Dodowa*, *Sofo*, *Onyina*, *Papao*, *Wawa*, and *West African Mahogany* species, as well as exotic tree species like *Teak* and *Cassia*, in combination with cassava and other crops selected by local communities (mainly maize, pepper, marantaceae and yam). These mixed forest plantations were established by selected local communities using the modified taungya agroforestry system.

The implementation of this project had led to some changes of attitude in right direction as summarized here below:

- The target youth stakeholders had effectively known how to select deforested local sites, known how to prepare the land for professional reforestation, known how to nurse and plant selected seedlings, known how to maintain them, as well as known how to process and package cassava produce into profitable value added products of different kinds. These skills had contributed to empower these young women and men, involved in the project implementation, on forestry issues correlated to the improvement of their livelihoods;
- The project intervention had sharpened the awareness and behavior of young women and men with respect to forestry issues, enabling them to continue being part of the solution regarding forest rehabilitation actions and activities in the Biakoye District, Volta Region, Ghana.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The regular and frequent consultation process among stakeholders had been the main lesson learned on the successful implementation of this project. The project strategies were well conceived and well elaborated to suit the multi-dimensional nature of the project and has contributed immensely to ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including target area young women and men, in the project implementation. The capacities of the target beneficiaries had been developed and allowed them to fully take their responsibility in the project implementation.

The main sustainability arrangement could be the commitment of the Ghana Forestry Commission (at the Biakoye District level) to continue providing further technical support, after the project completion, to the young women and men who were involved in the establishment of forest plantations and rehabilitated natural forests in Biakoye District, Volta Region, Ghana. The executing agency (PICODEV) had been preparing, in

collaboration with relevant stakeholders, a new project proposal, for submission to the ITTO project cycle in 2017. The new project proposal should contribute to consolidating of the main achievements of the project PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F).

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	949,491.90
ITTO Budget:		US\$	641,638.80
Government of Japan:	US\$	441,638.80	
Government of USA:	US\$	200,000.00	
HSI :		US\$	67,696.80
Municipalities (approx. amount in kind)		US\$	26,560.00
Forest Agencies (CONAFOR, CONANP, CONAP and INAB) (in kind)		US\$	213,596.30

Implementing Agency: HELVETAS SWISS INTERCOOPERATION (HSI)

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLVIII, November 2012, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: July 2014 / 24 months

The agreement for the implementation of the project was signed in December 2013. The yearly plan of operation for project implementation was approved in July 2014 and project activities commenced immediately after the disbursement of the first tranche of funds. The project's first Steering Committee meeting was held in San Marcos, Guatemala in early September 2014, and the second met at Tapachula, Mexico. Both meetings counted with the full participation of both Mexican and Guatemalan stakeholders, in particular CONAFOR, CONANP, CONAP, INAB, local governments and community representatives. The second disbursement of funds was carried out in November 2015.

In June 2016, the Executing Agency was informed by the ITTO Secretariat that all installments of funds to ITTO projects were to be suspended until further notice. Based on this, the Executing Agency decided to put the project on hold and informed the ITTO Secretariat of its intention to resume the project activities as soon as the remaining installments of ITTO funds are released again to finance the project.

Guatemala and Mexico share the Tacaná Volcano border area that straddles the Department of San Marcos and the State of Chiapas, an area in the Mesoamerican Biodiversity Corridor, featuring biological richness and ecotourism potential, but the area is affected by poverty and natural resources are used unsustainably. An initiative was developed for sustainable development in the protected areas of the Tacaná Volcano border area, based on coordinated actions, a study of the situation, and various exchanges between regional representatives of Mexican and Guatemalan Government institutions, civil society and the Swiss organization, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation.

The objective of this 2-year project is to contribute to improving the living standards of 28,000 people in both countries, based on the conservation and sustainable use of local natural resources. More specifically, it will launch a participatory process for natural resource and biodiversity management, conservation and use in the Tacaná Volcano and its range of influence in Guatemala and Mexico. The project begins with an initial two-year phase to establish the foundations of joint work with the community, men and women, with pilot activities, including forest management, diversification of economic opportunities, upgrading of the legal framework of protected areas and enhancement of collaboration between both countries.

Expected outputs are: i) Pilot areas for restoration or conservation have been established in a participatory manner; ii) Pilot projects are identified and established with the community, to enhance local livelihoods, including: ecotourism, agro-forestry and livestock-forestry systems; iii) The technical and legal framework for integrated management in Tacaná Volcano has been updated; and iv) Local communities,

Municipal Councils and public bodies share information, take decisions by consensus and are actively involved in the Guatemala – Mexico Binational Cooperation.

Since the Forty-ninth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report submitted in February 2016, progress in project implementation can be summarized by major outputs as follows:

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

- The mapping of restoration/conservation areas and environmental services in the Tacaná Volcano and its range of influence on the Guatemalan and Mexican sides has been completed;
- 7 priority areas for restoration and conservation have been selected;
- Several workshops have been held within the communities to socialize the restoration and conservation plans;
- 12 forest nurseries have been established and are expected to produce 42,473 tree seedlings of native species for the restoration areas, and
- Several models of community forest restoration are have been implemented with the involvement of the local stakeholders.

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

- 12 forest goods and services production proposals to enhance livelihoods submitted by the communities were assessed by a committee integrated by the concertation roundtables of Guatemala and Mexico, of which 8 were selected for implementation prior the development of specific investment plans. These include investments in ecotourism and others;
- A consultancy was carried out for the improvement of four tourist routes of the Binational Hiking Path, which produced several results such as i) a diagnostic base on the methodology on the range of opportunities for visitors of protected areas, ii) Infrastructure proposal and design, iii) Infrastructure maintenance proposal, and iv) overall budget and investment requirements; and
- A meeting to interchange of experiences between tour operators experienced in volcanoes and the Tacana communities took place on the Guatemalan side.

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

- A technical study to reclassify the Tacaná Volcano in Guatemala in close coordination with CONAP has been completed. However, initially the volcanic cone was classified as "Permanent Prohibition Zone" and did not allow any intervention, but CONAP recently approved another territorial framework and this study will have to be revised to incorporate this new framework, and
- Several workshops were organized focused on the technical and normative aspects for the conservation and management of natural resources in protected areas.

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

- The control and monitoring of areas through training and equipping the rangers has been implemented;
- 2 Baseline and biological monitoring studies (plants and birds) have been completed; and
- Binational and international cooperation activities were carried out to share knowledge and expertise among stakeholders.

The project was relatively on track until many of its activities had to be put on hold due to the suspended project's last instalment of funds resulted form the suspension of instalments of funds to all ITTO projects in June 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	179,744
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149,744
Government of Japan:	US\$	149,744	
Government of PNG		US\$	30,000
Implementing Agency:	Australian Centre for Sustainable Catchments (ACSC), University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in close collaboration with PNG Forest Authority		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	May 2015 / 24 months		

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

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

Since the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee in November 2015, key project activities implemented by the Executing Agency include:

- Refined the draft verifiers and sub indicators for all eleven indicators which were identified by a national workshop conducted in Port Moresby in May 2015. This workshop ranked both indicators and verifiers on the basis of their importance in PNG. Four of the 11 indicators (Inclusiveness, Accountability, Resources and Transparency) were ranked high by the workshop. The workshop report has been posted on ITTO website at: http://www.itto.int/files/itto_project_db_input/3067/Technical/Proceedings%20-%20REDD+%20Governance%20Workshop%20in%20PNG.pdf;
- Collected the means of verifications for four to five top ranked verifiers of these four high ranked indicators at five different levels. A series of consultation workshops with key REDD+ stakeholders have been organized as follows:
 - National level workshop in Port Moresby (11 April 2016, over 20 people participated)
 - Provincial level in Milne Bay Province (12 April 2016, 7 people participated)
 - District level in Alotau district (13 April 2016, 7 people participated)
 - Local level in Alotau (14 April 2016, 10 people participated) and
 - REDD+ pilot area, at LELEIFA Primary School (4 people participated)
- A paper entitled “Five years of REDD+ governance: the use of market mechanisms as a response to anthropogenic climate change” has been published in the journal “Forest Policy and Economics”; and

- Another paper “Governance values in the climate change regime: stakeholder perceptions of REDD+ legitimacy at the national level” has been submitted to the international journal Forests for review.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

This project was approved in Autumn 2013 and its financing was made at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement regulating project implementation was finalized in June 2015. After concluding all administrative arrangements including a yearly plan of operation, the project became operational in October 2015.

The coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta (35,238 ha) of Fiji are undoubtedly a source of important marine and terrestrial resource for local communities in the area, but more importantly, these forests safeguard the entire coastal ecosystem that supports riparian flat lands. However, the wetlands have been affected by social and economic pressures. Excessive resources extraction has resulted in reduction in vegetation area and habitat loss as well as declining quality in livelihood opportunities. To address such problems, this project is designed to contribute to the sustainable management of coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta, while improving the livelihoods of local communities. Specifically, the project proposes: restoration and management of at least 3,381 hectares as demonstration site; training of 17 communities involved in awareness creation on the importance of wetlands; and development of alternative livelihood options to reduce overdependence on the coastal and mangrove wetland vegetation. The target community lies within the Tikina of Bau, Tailevu, a densely populated area in the Rewa Delta. Expected outputs of the project include the collation of key issues on coastal and mangrove wetlands and the formulation of relevant policy framework. In addition, the targeted communities are expected to adopt alternative livelihoods that will reduce pressure from over-utilization of coastal and mangrove wetland resources.

Since the commencement of the project in October 2015, the key activities implemented by the Executing Agency include the following:

- Conducted community workshops on the importance of coastal and mangrove wetland and identification of alternate livelihood options for 4 villages in Tailevu province namely; Waicoka, Natila, Nasilai and Naivakacau under component 1 of the project. The training focused on its activities in four main areas: (1) raise awareness to improve understanding of ecosystem services, mangrove system and coastal ecosystems; (2) need to implement an applied management action plan for conservation of mangrove land and sustainable agricultural practices on sloping terrain; (3) capacity building exercise to strengthen natural resource base for villages; and (4) promotion of alternative sustainable livelihoods through collaboration and technical support from partner agencies and organizations;
- Completed a land-use mapping exercise and identified the area and species that need to be planted for restoring degraded coastal and mangrove wetlands for each village. The participants were awarded with a certificate of participation after the completion a five-day training course in each village; and

- Started with the implementation phase to identify the species that needs to be planted for restoring degraded coastal and mangrove wetlands. Nasilai village has been chosen as a pilot site.

Since February 2016 when Cyclone Winston, the most powerful storm made landfall in the southern hemisphere of Fiji, the implementation of the project activities had been slowed down; but, the project implementation is now on track. The Executing Agency is trying to utilize the Fijian Government funds to undertake some of the project activities after receiving a notice from the ITTO Secretariat on the suspension of installments of funds to all ITTO projects in June 2016.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Sumatra is the largest island in Indonesia and has abundant biological diversity, including many indigenous plant species. Some of the high-value indigenous species are Sumatran yew (*Taxus sumatrana*), and Sumatran merbau (*Intsia palembanica*). However, over exploitation, encroachment, and illegal activities have made many of the high-value species threatened with extinction. High commercially valuable timber species such as Sumatran merbau, kulim, andalau, and giam have been excessively and illegally logged for the past several decades. Lesser-known NTFPs producing species have also been illegally collected, whereas, endemic and relatively limited distribution and small population size, *T. sumatrana* has been threatened by habitat encroachment, population disruption and illegal logging.

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the sustainable management of high-valued indigenous species of Sumatra. The specific objective of the project aims to enhance the achievement of conservation goals through revitalization of the existing conservation program, harvest control systems, and regeneration. The expected outputs are (1) accelerated conservation of selected high-value indigenous species; (2) promotion of harvest control of those species; and (3) improving the regeneration capacity of those species. The expected benefits include updated data and information on distribution, the conservation status and protection, and regeneration for selected high-value indigenous species as well as improved socio-economic conditions of the forest-dependent community.

Since the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee in November 2015, key project activities implemented by the Executing Agency can be summarized as follows:

- Published in Indonesian language the workshop proceedings on "Improving Awareness on Conservation of High Value Indigenous Wood Species of Sumatra" held on 27 April 2015. The proceedings have been distributed to various stakeholders;
- Continued the collection and updating of data and information on distribution, population and conservation status of the seven selected high-value indigenous species. Tree's biological and ecological data and information cover a number of target trees (population potency), stand

structure, tree's size, species association, regeneration condition, micro climate, soil type and pH, etc.;

- Carried out an analysis for economic and utilization potential and chemical substances of *Taxus sumatrana* which were collected from the forest in Mount Kerinci National Park and Tapanuli, south Sumatra; and
- Built a simple nursey facility (6 x 20 m) to provide shading for seedling. Collected seeds, wildings and other vegetative materials. The team also collected fruit of andalas from Tanah Datar and the seeds were already sown at the nursery.

Ex-situ conservation plots will be established for four selected species among the concerned seven indigenous species of Sumatra. In addition, the establishment of additional ex-situ conservation plots for andalas, kulim + giam, *Taxus*, and Sumatran merbau has been suggested. However, since June 2016 when installments of funds to all ITTO projects were suspended, the Executing Agency has not been able to implement the most of the project activities.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	216,162
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149,408
Government of Japan:	US\$	46,504	
Government of USA:	US\$	102,904	
MALEBI / Gov't of Côte d'Ivoire (in kind):		US\$	66,754

Implementing Agency: MALEBI Association

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: January 2016 / 24 months

The 24-month project was approved under Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 50th ITTC Session in November 2014, thanks to the generous contribution of the Governments of Japan and USA. The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 28 December 2015 after nine months of bureaucratic process in Côte d'Ivoire. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 7 January 2016 in order to start the project implementation

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

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

- 34 persons (among them 30 women) had been trained by experts from SODEFOR on the techniques regarding the establishment and management of a nursery for the production of forest seedlings, in the village of Sokoradjan, Dimbokro District;
- 78 persons had been trained by experts from SODEFOR on the techniques regarding the establishment, maintenance and protection of forest plantations, in the village of Troumabo, Dimbokro District;
- Subsequent to the abovementioned training sessions, a nursery was established and managed in Sokoradjan Village near the Nzi River, where 16,500 seedlings had been produced for the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands in the Gazetted Forests of Ahua;
- Around 24.60 ha had been planted by the Association MALEBI, with the participation of local communities, for the rehabilitation of the Ahua Gazetted Forest, using the following species: *Tectona grandis*, *Triplochiton scleroxylon*, and *Cassia siamea*.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	561,022
ITTO Budget:		US\$	484,792
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	484,792	
Government of Cambodia		US\$	76,230
Implementing Agency:	Forest Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia		
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2014		
Starting Date and Duration:	September 2015 / 36 months		

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

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in Kampong Thom province through the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. Its specific objective is to establish the institutionalization of REDD+ activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The project will address the key problem of the limited institutional capacity for promoting REDD+ activities to support sustainable forest management in Kampong Thom province. The project plans to advance REDD+ programmes in Cambodia by building on the experiences of those on-going REDD+ activities to standardize the procedures to meet, in an efficient and effective manner, the technical specifications of REDD+ jurisdictional standards to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The expected outputs of the project include: i) Stakeholder understanding and knowledge of REDD+ improved; ii) Research program on REDD+ in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province developed and implemented; and iii) REDD+ guidelines and training programs strengthened for effective design and implementation of REDD+ activities.

Since the commencement of the project in September 2015, key activities implemented by the Executing Agency include the following:

- Reviewed lessons learned from on-going REDD+ interventions in Cambodia and key tropical countries with the engagement of an international consultant;
- Organized an awareness-raising workshop on 11 January 2016, for stakeholders at provincial level with 61 participants from provincial departments including Environment, Land Management, Urban planning, Women Affairs and Veteran, and Social Affairs Departments. Four site awareness-raising events were held for community forestry on 12 January 2016 in Kampong Thom province and on 25 March in Oddar Meanchey province;
- Selected a consultant to develop a default provincial forest reference emission level for Kampong Thom province;
- Selected the Sreung and Sochet Community Forestry as the initial target site to enhance community livelihoods and reduce carbon emissions. For reforestation in the target sites. The project team with support from community forestry members has identified 16 species including three species of fruit tree;
- Organized a tree planting ceremony in the selected Forestry Community site on 12 July 2016. It was attended by 134 participants including Forestry Community members, teachers, and young pupils with the plantation of a total of 500 seedlings; and
- Organized a three-day training course on measurement, reporting and verification on 28- 30 March 2016 with the attendance of 27 participants from Forestry Administration Cantonment, Fisheries Administration Cantonment and Provincial Department of Environment.

The Project is expected to work on the technical specifications of REDD+ jurisdictional standards to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. However, since June 2016 when installments of funds to all ITTO projects were suspended, the Executing Agency has postponed the implementation of many of the project activities.

B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

(1) PD 721/13 Rev.3 (F) Building a Participatory and Inclusive Sustainable Forest Management Process for the Reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Ixil Forest Areas of the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget: US\$ 698,001.00

ITTO Budget: US\$ 441,238.50

CALMECAC US\$ 256,762.50

Implementing Agency: FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL DEL HOMBRE Y SU ENTORNO – CALMECAC

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and full financing for its implementation was pledged in March 2016. The draft agreement regulating the implementation of the project is currently being reviewed by the Secretariat.

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

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

As such, this project seeks to enhance the sustainable forest management skills of local community forest organizations in the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, with a view to reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the Xaclbal watershed area. Major outputs expected are: (1) a PDD developed for community forests; (2) Good forest management practices agreed and developed for community forests to reduce deforestation and forest degradation; and (3) Sustainable forest management plans developed and implemented to ensure the conservation of community forests in the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché. This is an innovative proposal as it links and creates social dynamics between different sectors for the development of new models of participatory management of natural resources, through sustainable forest management and conservation systems that will contribute to the development of benefit-sharing mechanisms at the local level within the framework of the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation initiative.

(2) PD 741/14 Rev.3 (F) Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	9 89,038
ITTO Budget:	US\$	437,630
AIDER:	US\$	551,408

Implementing Agency: ASOCIACION PARA LA INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO INTEGRAL (AIDER)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 30 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and full financing for its implementation was pledged in March 2016. The draft agreement regulating the implementation of the project is currently being reviewed by the Secretariat.

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

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	709,718
ITTO Budget:	US\$	591,618
NGO Ce.Sa.Re.N:	US\$	118,100

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The 36-month project was approved under Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded under Spring 2016 Project Cycle, thanks to the generous contribution of the Governments of Japan. The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project is pending until the holding of the 52nd ITTC Session, in November 2016, due to the financial

impairment issue. The project implementation could start after the signing of the agreement by all parties and the disbursement of the first tranche of ITTO funds.

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

(4) PD 764/14 Rev.2 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilot Areas of PNG

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approval: Autumn 2014
Rev.2 approval: Autumn 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved in the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle and received a commitment from the government of Japan. However, the project agreement for regulating project implementation has not been consulted with the Implementing Agency due to ITTO suspension of payments to all projects since June 2016.

The project is a key outcome of the PNG Forest Authority's Forestry and Climate Change Framework for Action (2009-2015) which highlights the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to CFM programming that engages customary landowners at the local level and enhances the capacity of government institutions at the national level. The development objective of the project aims to improve sustainable forest management practices through enhanced community livelihoods and social stability. The specific objective of the project is to establish a model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that supports CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+) and increases landowner understanding about the goods and services that forests provide. Project activities will be managed and sustained by the PNG Forest Authority at the national level; working in collaboration with 6 CFM partners and their pilot landowner groups at the local level. This arrangement has the potential for ongoing replication in the future.

The project will deliver four specific outputs, namely i) Participatory data collection technology is improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; ii) Clan groups are participating appropriately in the National Land Development Program; iii) A data management system is engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and iv) Policy and planning guidelines for CFM are in place.

(5) PD 777/15 Rev.2 (F) Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	679,761
ITTO Budget:	US\$	564,491
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	115,270

Implementing Agency: Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park Authority (GGPNP), Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved in the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle and received a commitment from the government of Japan. However, the project agreement for regulating project implementation has not been consulted with the Implementing Agency due to ITTO suspension of payments to all projects since June 2016.

The project aims to contribute to restoring the conservation and development functions of the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) in West Java province of Indonesia, with a total area of approximately 114,779 hectares. The CBR is one of the most important biosphere reserves of Indonesia due mainly to its rich and unique biodiversity. It is also a well-known tourist destination due to its relatively good accessibility and a vital source of water for lives of about thirty million people residing in the Capital City of Jakarta and other smaller cities as well as municipalities located around the reserve. The basic notion underlying the project design is that CBR can never fulfill its conservation and development functions unless the landscapes in the core area and buffer and transition zones are properly managed and utilized and the institutional arrangements for the reserve management are significantly enhanced.

Its specific objective is to improve conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems in CBR through implementation of the Integrated Strategic Management Plan through delivery of three outputs, namely: i) threat on biodiversity in the core area significantly reduced, ii) land use best practices in CBR buffer and transition zones demonstrated and promoted, and iii) institutional arrangements for CBR management enhanced.

C. PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	692,481
ITTO Budget:	US\$	529,034
Government of Colombia – University of Tolima:	US\$	107,660
Community Council of the Bajo Calima Black Ethnic Group:	US\$	55,787

Implementing Agency: UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLV, November 2009, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

The Council approved the project at its Forty-fifth Session in November 2009. Financing was not allocated at that time, but the Council authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state. The Government of Colombia resubmitted the proposal as Revision 3 in 2013 and further resubmitted it as Revision 4 in 2015, and as such will be considered for financing for an additional period of 20 months.

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

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

(2) PD 690/13 Rev.3 (F) Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Sustainable Rural Development in the Peruvian Amazon Region (Peru)

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: PERUVIAN BAMBOO ASSOCIATION – PERUBAMBU

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

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

(3) PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra, Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

(4) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

	Total Budget:	US\$	2,022,445
Phase I:	ITTO Budget:	US\$	599,962
	Government of Myanmar:	US\$	41,700
Phase II:	ITTO Budget:	US\$	1,339,083
	Government of Myanmar:	US\$	41,700

Implementing Agency: Forest Department, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Government of Myanmar

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approval: Autumn 2013
Rev.2 approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase I - 36 months; Phase II - 36 months

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

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

The project aims at strengthening national capacity and resources in biodiversity conservation and effective conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar. The

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: Regional Research Centre of South Sumatra

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

Peat swamp forests (PSF) in Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia estimated at nearly 13 million ha are a very important forest ecosystem as they store vast amounts of carbon as soil organic matter. However, these important ecosystems have been reduced through deforestation, degradation, drainage, and conversion to agricultural lands, forest fire and other activities. In light of the importance of sustaining peat swamp forests, this is designed to contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of Peat swamp forest (PSF) in Sumatra with engagement of local communities and private companies operating in PSF. The specific objective of the project is to facilitate restoration and rehabilitation of PSF in Sumatra through capacity building of key stakeholders, wide application of improved technology, and improved enabling policies for restoration of PSF. The project activities include public awareness raising, capacity building of key stakeholders for restoration-rehabilitation and sustainable management of PSF, and resolving the existing conflicts across government authorities in peatland management. The expected outputs are: i) Sufficient resources to promote restoration and rehabilitation of degraded and deforested PSF area provided; ii) Viable schemes to accelerate restoration and rehabilitation developed; and iii) Widespread initiatives on restoration and rehabilitation activities promoted.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	910,191
ITTO Budget:	US\$	587,961

Executing Agency :	US\$	222,030
Other sources (INAB & ICF) :	US\$	100,200

Implementing Agency: Rainforest Alliance

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project

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

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

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

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	792,672
ITTO Budget:	US\$	601,944
INAB:	US\$	190,728

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Guatemala has a forest cover (2010) of 3,722,595 hectares, which accounts for 34% of the national territory. In 2006 the country’s forest cover was estimated at 3,868,708 ha; these figures represent a net loss

of 146,112 hectares of forest, which is equivalent to a net deforestation rate of 1.0% annually at the national level (with respect to existing forests in 2006). This situation has become particularly crucial as Guatemala has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to extreme climatic events and other adverse climatic conditions, adding to the problems of loss of biodiversity and reduction of forest goods and services.

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

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

Thus, it is necessary to develop a project proposal aimed at the implementation of forest landscape restoration actions through pilot restoration sites established in accordance with the "ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests", focused on 4 strategic forest ecosystems that have been prioritized by the National Forest Institute (INAB) and the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) - cloud forests, dry forests, pine-oak forests and mangrove forests.

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: INSTITUTO FLORESTA TROPICAL, BRAZIL

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 18 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

laws and standards. A website will provide access to the tools, data tables, user guides and training materials.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget: US\$ 304,483.50

ITTO Budget: US\$ 151,200.00

Government of Mexico: US\$ 153,283.50

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

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

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

(14) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget: US\$ 930,611.44

ITTO Budget: US\$ 655,213.44

ANCON:	US\$	112,080.00
FEPACHEDA:	US\$	21,238.00
MIAMBIENTE:	US\$	142,080.00

Implementing Agency:	National Association for the Conservation of Nature (ANCON)
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2015
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The objective of this project is to implement the Forest Management Plan of the Chepigana Forest Reserve (RFCh) as a conservation and sustainable development alternative that will generate social and economic benefits for the local communities through the sustainable use of timber forest resources. This project proposal has been formulated as a follow-up of the actions implemented under ITTO-financed project PD 482/07 (F) “Sustainable forest production and conservation with community participation in the Chepigana Forest Reserve of Darién, Panama” (2009-2012), whose activities included the implementation of forest management actions, the development of a management plan, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and a first yearly plan of operation, as well as the establishment and legalization of FEPACHEDA and the strengthening and training of its 8 member grassroots organizations.

It is now necessary to implement the General Management Plan, which was technically and legally approved by MIAMBIENTE through Reserve Management Plan Resolution DAPVS-001-2015 and Forest Management Plan Resolution DIGICH-IF-PM005-2014. An intensive in-service business management training scheme will be implemented, targeting at least 20% female participants, to involve the FEPACHEDA and its commercial arm CAFODSA in reduced impact logging (RIL), primary processing and marketing of timber products for at least the first YPO. The strategy also includes obtaining the first FSC controlled timber certificate. An RFCh monitoring programme will be implemented with the community members, and a participatory project monitoring plan will be executed as an environmental education tool.

(15) PD 775/15 Rev.1 (F) Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico (Guatemala & Mexico)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,305,075
ITTO Budget:	US\$	899,461
IUCN	US\$	386,614
INAB	US\$	9,500
CONAFOR:	US\$	9,500

Implementing Agency:	International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2015
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Pine-oak forests are distributed from Mexico to Nicaragua, including in 74 municipalities of the State of Chiapas, Mexico, and 246 municipalities of Guatemala. Together with forests of pinabete (*Abies guatemalensis* Redher), an endemic species in Guatemala, these forests are characterized by high population density and high poverty and exclusion rates. Forest fragmentation and deforestation result in a diversity of land uses which in turn exert pressure on forests: agricultural and livestock encroachment, growing urbanization and unsustainable use of resources. Despite the presence of protected areas and community forest management in the transboundary area of both countries, there is a pressing need to design and implement public and/or private instruments and mechanisms at the local and/or regional levels to promote the management of ecosystem goods and services.

To help solve the above problem, the project proposes to strengthen the conservation and restoration of forests on the border between Guatemala and Mexico, via the implementation of a land management model for the restoration of the forest landscape between Mexico and Guatemala.

The area of intervention includes the State of Chiapas in Mexico and the Department of San Marcos in Guatemala. The areas where activities will be implemented (pilot sites) include: El Chespal, Pavencul, Aquiles Serdán, Ignacio Zaragoza, La Soledad, Peloponeso, and Toquian Chiquito in Mexico and Esquichá, Coatancito, and Chemealon micro basins in the Municipalities of Tacaná and San José Ojetenam, San Marcos, Guatemala; this is the location of the forests in the pine-oak Mesoamerican Biological Corridor.

The project will be implemented in three phases: the first three-year phase will design the restoration plan and implementation of actions along the headwaters of the basin, consolidating business models to supply sustainable goods and services to the market (water, firewood, food, carbon, timber, power, seeds or others that show some potential). The second three-year phase will deal with the mid-stream areas of the basin and a third three-year phase will deal with the lower basin, applying the same approach used in the two previous phases and validated in the first one.

(16) PD 776/15 Rev.2 (F) Enhancement of the Wildland Fire Prevention and Control System for the Sustainable Management of ONAB's Plantations (Benin)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	564,236
ITTO Budget:	US\$	397,936
Government of Benin (ONAB):	US\$	166,300

Implementing Agency: *OFFICE NATIONAL DU BOIS (ONAB) – NATIONAL TIMBER BOARD in collaboration with DIRECTION GENERALE DES FORETS ET DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES (DGFRN) – GENERAL FOREST AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT*

Period of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved under the Spring 2016 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be considered as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

In its mission to implement the reforestation and sustainable management of state plantations, ONAB is increasingly challenged by the adverse effects of wild land fires. Each year ONAB invests significant resources in fire control efforts, however the results of its fire management actions fall short of expectation. This project was developed to strengthen the current fire prevention and control system in order to contribute to sustainable plantation management.

The three outputs expected at the end of this project are as follows: (i) Municipal authorities and local communities are involved in fire management (ii) An integrated forest management plan is identified, (iii) The technical and organizational capacities of grassroots stakeholders are increased. By project completion date, it is expected that all seven municipalities and the target groups of the local population will be adequately outreached and aware to engage in the wild land fire control effort. A fire warning and monitoring system will be established and operational. It will secure plantation forests against fires and reduce the damage caused by wildfires on these plantations, while improving the incomes of local communities.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	838,002.60
ITTO Budget:	US\$	699,581.00
Asociación Vivamos Mejor:	US\$	138,421.60

Implementing Agency: ASOCIACIÓN VIVAMOS MEJOR

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The project will promote the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable forest management and community agroforestry in the Uwalcox River micro-watershed to promote adaptation to climate change and improve living standards for indigenous communities in Guatemala, implementing integrated management practices in the micro-watershed area. It will use a participatory approach to plan sustainable forest management and conservation of biological diversity in tropical forest ecosystems (pine-oak and cloud forests) in the Uwalcox River micro-watershed, as a strategy for climate variability and change adaptation and mitigation. Furthermore, it will promote the development of socio-ecological production landscapes through the restoration of forest and agroforestry cover in forestlands now denuded of forests and/or under agricultural use, as a strategy to promote ecologic connectivity between forest stands and to strengthen food self-sufficiency among indigenous communities in the Uwalcox micro-watershed area.

(18) PD 780/15 Rev.3 (F) Sustainable Indigenous Mixed Species Reforestation, Plus Climate-Resilient Women Livelihoods in Six Rural Communities in Ghana's Akwapim and Upper Krobo Districts

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	510,390
ITTO Budget:	US\$	403,570
Government of Ghana / EA:	US\$	106,820

Implementing Agency: PITRIS CONSULT, in collaboration with Forests of Hope NGO

Period of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved under the Spring 2016 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be considered as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

This project is women-focused (in terms of gender justice and equality) and rural-based, which will be implemented in the Akwapim Rural and Upper Krobo Sub-Districts of the Eastern Region of Ghana. It will intend to initiate a participatory process that induces best practices which could lead to sustainable forest management (SFM) in Akwapim Rural and Upper Krobo private off-reserve forests in Ghana.

The goal of the project is to practically demonstrate, nurture, and mutually promote the idea that professionally mixed indigenous tropical timber species used by women groups for reforestation activities on degraded off-reserve lands (with farmer-owner-suggested food and nutritious under-cropping systems), could be an important contribution in re-greening Ghana. The chosen indigenous tropical tree species for reforestation activities include Wawa, Ofra, Emire, Mansonia, Dahoma, Rosewood, and West African Mahogany. The project will contribute promoting rural wealth while alleviating poverty in selected local communities to be involved in its implementation.

(19) PD 785/15 Rev.1 (F) Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics (Mexico)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	2,583,514.90
ITTO Budget:	US\$	1,497,321.61
Government of Mexico:	US\$	1,086,193.29

Implementing Agency: National Institute for Forest, Agriculture and Livestock Research (INIFAP)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Commercial forest plantations (CFP) are an alternative to help reduce the pressure on natural forest lands in the moist tropics of the Gulf and Caribbean southern plains of Mexico; they also offer an option for productive reconversion of abandoned lands. However, CFPs are frequently affected by phytosanitary problems with a detrimental effect on timber volume and quality. Plant health problems lead to increased production costs and may cause the CFP to be abandoned, thus remaining as a source of inoculation.

The project deals with the phytosanitary problems using a prevention, management and coexistence approach. It considers that many problems originate from low quality seeds and little genetic variability of the materials used in these plantations, environmental stress on species established in unsuitable areas and finally, scant or untimely plant health management. The specific objectives of the project include: To design a CFP phytosanitary management programme for seven timber species (*Pinus caribaea* var. *hondurensis*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, *Tectona grandis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Eucalyptus urophylla* and *E. grandis*); and To strengthen CFP forest planning through environmental

description and demarcation of potential areas, increased genetic sources of native species and improved specific practices for the nursery stage.

The outcomes will help detect and demarcate current and probable pest and disease foci in CFPs with a regional perspective. This information will be used to prioritise pests and diseases in order to design and validate management strategies, based on epidemiological data from nurseries and CFPs. Furthermore, criteria will be developed for the selection and conservation of propagation material associated with nursery practices tailored to produce vigorous plants. The validation will involve CFP managers to ensure information and outcome ownership. Additionally, dissemination will include courses for technical experts and persons in charge of CFPs, paper publication and *in situ* visits of the validation units.

(20) PD 794/15 Rev.1 (F) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	884,603
ITTO Budget:	US\$	724,391
Ministry of the Environment of Ecuador :	US\$	32,462
HIVOS:	US\$	70,198
UOPPAO:	US\$	57,552

Implementing Agency: INSTITUTO HUMANISTA PARA LA COOPERACIÓN CON LOS PAÍSES EN DESARROLLO – HIVOS In collaboration with; UNDERSECRETARIATS OF NATURAL HERITAGE AND COASTAL MARINE MANAGEMENT / SOCIO BOSQUE /SOCIO MANGLAR CHAPTER PROGRAMME, AND NETWORK OF SMALL FISHERS' ORGANISATIONS OF EL ORO – UOPPAO

Period of Approval: Autumn 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Conservation and sustainable use of mangrove forests in the southern province of El Oro are under threat from poor governance and ecosystem management. The project will reduce this threat and ensure the subsistence and strengthening of local community ways of life by increasing protection and concession areas; strengthening authorities and concession holder organizations with a view to improving their governance; and strengthening management, production and sustainable trade of mangrove goods and services to improve living standards for ecosystem users.

By the end of the project the mangrove conservation model for El Oro will be consolidated with a conservation corridor and a proposal for integrated ecosystem management. Authorities will have the tools, trained personnel and inter-institutional agreements for improved management, monitoring and control of concessions. The network of community concession holder organizations will be strengthened in its role as an organized platform and local trained technical unit to improve area governance and keep up government incentives; 50% of concessions in the area will have stronger governance indicators. Furthermore, they will have training and operational infrastructure to provide support to their members in sustainable management of ecosystem goods and services through three strengthened production chains for fisheries products (mollusks and crabs), tourism and arts and crafts. Non-organized users and the general population will be better informed and aware of the importance of conserving and managing this ecosystem.

(21) PD 802/15 Rev.2 (F) Building the Capacity of Local Village Communities for the Restoration, Management and Governance of the Founou and Wani Forest Reserves in the Macina District, Segou Region, Mali

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	614,814
ITTO Budget:	US\$	486,586
Executing Agency:	US\$	128,228

Implementing Agency: Association for Development and Self-Governance in Mali (ADAM), in collaboration with the Forestry Directorate (DEF)

Period of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

Mali is a vast landlocked Sahelian country in the heartland of West Africa. It covers an area of 1,241,138 sq.km, of which about 60% are included in the desert area. The Malian forestry sector is characterized by a continuing degradation of natural resources in general and forest resources in particular, caused by the unstable climate balance in the country, the decline in forest productivity and reducing forest output, the constant increase of demand for timber products including fuel wood as a result of the population explosion, the continuous impoverishment of the communities, the instability of the resource management institutional framework and changes in legislations. The recent adoption in 2010 of the new Forest Law (*Politique Forestière Nationale*) by the Government of Mali aims to reorganize the use, transportation and trade of timber in Mali in a novel, more adequate legislative, technical and social framework. The implementation of forest policy gives prime of place to the civil society, private operators and NGOs, to ensure a sustainable and participatory management of forest resources in the country. The Founou and Wani forest reserves (8,720 ha) are located on the right bank of River Niger. Both are affected by a process of continuous degradation due to the aforesaid causes.

To enable forests to play their role in addressing the needs of development, their restoration, rehabilitation and protection are required for the well-being of local communities. The project aims to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources and forest reserves and to improve the livelihood of communities surrounding these forests. More specifically, the project plans to ensure the sustainable management of the FOUNOU and WANI forest reserves through building the management capacity of the local village communities to engage in sustainable rehabilitation, planning, control and monitoring of forest reserves to improve their income levels.

Outcomes expected at project completion are as follows: (i) Better use and management of forest areas within forest reserves; social, economic and environmental functions of forests are secure through rehabilitation activities; (ii) Improved forestry revenues and good governance in the industrial use and management of forests reserves through the building of organizational, institutional and technical capacity of local communities.

(22) PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F) Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	709,848
ITTO Budget:	US\$	574,448
Government of Benin (ONAB):	US\$	135,400

Implementing Agency: *OFFICE NATIONAL DU BOIS* (ONAB) – NATIONAL TIMBER BOARD, in collaboration with GENERAL FOREST AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT / *DIRECTION GENERALE DES FORETS ET DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES* (DGFRN)

Period of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved under the Spring 2016 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be considered as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

The project to improve production, conservation and management of forest seeds in Benin was initiated by the *Office National du Bois* (ONAB) whose chief mission is to rehabilitate the national forest estate and to restore timber production levels. In the implementation of its reforestation mission, ONAB faces the unavailability of quality seeds in sufficient quantity. This project aims to ensure a sustainable supply of forest seeds to meet the needs of ONAB and private and public reforestation stakeholders in Benin.

The implementation of this project proposal will secure reliable and operational sources for high-quality forest seeds, and use appropriate methods for harvesting, processing, storing and disseminating higher quality seeds to produce efficient planting stock to supply reforestation activities essentially devoted to rehabilitating degraded forest landscape in Benin. The three outputs expected at the end of this project are as follows: (i) the production system for high-quality forest seeds has improved; (ii) ONAB's capacity for managing and conserving high-quality forest seeds is enhanced, (iii) technical and organizational capacities of grassroots stakeholders are strengthened.

(23) PD 824/16 Rev.1 (F) Promoting Sustainable Development and Utilization of Kemenyan (*Styrax spp.*) Resource Involving Local Stakeholders in Toba Region of North Sumatra Province, Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	697,954
ITTO Budget:	US\$	564,894
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	133,060

Implementing Agency: Extension and Human Resource Development Agency (EHRDA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) in collaboration with Aek Nauli Forestry Research Institute (ANFRI)

Session of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in the Spring 2016 Project Cycle but is waiting for financing.

The overall objective of the proposed project is to promote the interest of local stakeholders in the conservation and development of kemenyan (*Styrax* spp.) resource through improved livelihoods of local communities. Its specific objective is to implement an adequate strategy for sustainable development and utilization of kemenyan resource in Toba region of North Sumatra province. The expected outputs of the project are: i) support of local governments on the development and utilization of kemenyan resource strengthened; ii) participation of local communities in kemenyan resource utilization promoted; and iii) interest of local communities in kemenyan plantation development elevated. The project will be implemented in a participatory manner involving local stakeholders including local governments, local communities, NGOs, universities and professionals. To minimize risk, support of local governments and cooperation of local communities should be secured since the very early stage of project implementation.

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

- (1) PD 618/11 Rev.4 (F) Establishment of Spatial Forest Resources Information System (SPA-FRIS) in West Papua Province (Indonesia)
- (2) PD 684/13 Rev.3 (F) Biodiversity Conservation with Collaboration of Local Communities in Traditionally Owned Forest Areas of South Western Ghana
- (3) PD 717/13 Rev.2 (F) Enrichment of Young Forest Plantations with Selected NTFPs for Livelihood Improvement and Support of Forest Fringe Communities in Atwima Mponua District of Ghana, in order to Secure and Protect the Resources on a Sustainable Forest Management Basis (Ghana)
- (4) 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
- (5) PD 733/14 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Forest Restoration Through Multiple-use of Degraded Forest Lands within Anwhiaso East Forest Reserve in Ghana
- (6) PD 747/14 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Community Forest Management Through the Implementation of Forest Training and Extension in Guatemala
- (7) 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

● PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

There is one (1) approved pre-project is currently under implementation while no pre-project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are four (4) approved pre-projects still awaiting full financing and five (5) pre-projects that fell under the sunset provision since the last Session. In this report the pre-projects are grouped into four categories:

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	64,128
ITTO Budget:		US\$	52,402
Government of Japan:	US\$	37,402	
Government of U.S.A.:	US\$	15,000	
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:		US\$	11,726
Implementing Agency:	Ministry of Water and Forest Resources		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XXXVI, July 2004, Interlaken, Switzerland		
Starting Date and Duration:	November 2006 / 6 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until February 2008 [CRF(XLI)]		

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

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

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

The Secretariat had urged the Executing Agency to take the necessary arrangements for the submission of the technical report, the Completion Report, as well as the Final Financial Audit Report, not later than end of March 2016. The termination notice was sent in April 2016 and urged the Executing Agency to submit the completion report and the Final Financial Audit Report, otherwise the project shall be recommended for termination to the Committee at its Fiftieth Session in November 2016.

B. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

None.

C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING**(1) PPD 178/14 Rev.2 (F) Support to the Creation of Green Belts around the Waza, Benoue, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda National Parks (Cameroon)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

This 6-month pre-project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval.

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

(2) 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)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	92,432
ITTO Budget:	US\$	79,072
Government of Ghana:	US\$	13,360 (in kind)

Implementing Agency: Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

Period of Approval: Autumn 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

This 6-month pre-project was approved under the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval.

The objective of this pre-project is to develop a full project proposal to be submitted to ITTO on "supporting protected- area communities in Afram plains to engage in integrated planning and management of economic timber species within community lands as means of managing tropical tree species and improving the living standards of rural communities". The project specifically seeks to re-introduce charcoal and other threatened forest tree species into community lands surrounding protected areas, to improve the supply of fuel and construction wood to local people.

(3) PPD 184/15 Rev.2 (F) Development of Payment for Environmental Services Scheme for Local Community Groups and Private Developer Forest Plantations in Degraded Lands, Ghana

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	86,880
ITTO Budget:	US\$	76,440
Government of Ghana:	US\$	10,440

Implementing Agency: Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG), with collaboration with Resource Management Support Center of the Forestry Commission (FC)

Period of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months

This 12-month pre-project was approved under the Spring 2016 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, but financing was not allocated at that time. However, Council has authorized the Executive Director to start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution became available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval.

The project to be developed from this pre-project intends to contribute to emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation (DFD) through development of payment of forest environmental services (PFES) scheme for forest plantation establishment on degraded lands by local community groups. The pre-project intends to collect and process baseline information to formulate appropriate proposal on applying PFES to incentivize farmers and private individuals to establish and manage forest plantation on degraded lands.

(4) PPD 185/16 Rev.1 (F) Saving Timber Yielding Rare Endemic and Threatened Species of Western Ghats, India by Promoting Agro-forestry and Reforestation of Degraded Lands (India)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	68,112
ITTO Budget:	US\$	51,700
Government of India:	US\$	16,412

Implementing Agency: M S Swaminathan Research Foundation in collaboration with Department of Forests and Wildlife, Kerala State, International Partnership for Satoyama Initiative

Period of Approval: Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 18 months

The pre-project aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the selected Rare, Endemic and Threatened species of Western Ghats through an integrated action research across a "4C" framework comprising conservation, cultivation, consumption, and commerce aspects. This will be achieved through augmentation of the wild population of the chosen species across degraded forest areas of a few critical corridors of Wayanad district of Kerala and also in selected community lands/farms. Approximately 600 tree species are threatened with extinction in India with a sizable percentage located in the south Indian region, mostly in the Western Ghats although steps were taken to save some of the Rare, Endemic and Threatened species. The pre-project work will lead to the formulation of a full length project proposal for Saving Timber yielding Rare Endemic and Threatened Species of Western Ghats, India by promoting agro-forestry and reforestation of degraded lands.

D. PRE-PROJECTS COMING UNDER THE SUNSET PROVISIONS SINCE THE LAST 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 180/14 Rev.1 (F) Pre-project for the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of The Mangrove Forests in The Coastal Area of Cote D'ivoire
- (5) PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F) Feasibility Study on The Payment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Forests in Benin

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