



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL  
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON  
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

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



### **Item 1 - Opening of the Session**

The Fiftieth Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF) was opened on 8 November 2016 by Dr. Mohammed Nurudeen Iddrisu (Ghana), Chairperson of the CRF. The CRF Session adopted the provisional agenda as contained in Document CRF(L)/1.

### **Item 2 - Adoption of Agenda and Organization of Work**

The Provisional Agenda for the CRF, as contained in Document CRF(L)/1, was duly adopted. To expedite proceedings, the Agenda items 4, 6 and 8 were considered at the Joint Session of the committees convened on 9 November in order to ensure that all agenda items are covered within the limited time available to the Committee, the Chairperson of the CRF proposed to organize the Session in the following order: Item 3, Item 5, Item 9, Item 7, Item 10, Item 11, Item 12, Item 13, Item 14, Item 15 and Item 16. The list of participants is presented in Document ITTC(LII)/Info.2.

### **Item 3 - Admission of Observers**

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

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

The Joint Session of the Committees considered the report of the Expert Panel for Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals presented by its member, Ms. Valéria Cristina Rigueira (Brazil), as contained in document ITTC/EP-51.

In response to a question from the delegate of the EU on the status of funding of the Category 1 projects, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Economics Statistics and Markets (CEM), Mr. Jorge Malleux (Peru), who was also a member of the Oversight Committee, provided a brief explanation on related decisions that will be taken by the Committee on Finance and Administration (CFA) at its Thirty-first Session on project funding as well as on normalizing the cycles of project proposal assessment.

The delegates of Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire and Guatemala also expressed their concern about the issue of on-going projects and pre-projects impacted by ITTO's financial impairment.

Following the presentation of Ms. Rigueira, delegates of several countries put forward comments and questions.

The delegate of the USA commented on the common trend regarding the lack of quality of submitted project proposals derived from completed pre-projects. Ms. Rigueira responded that the Secretariat needed to provide more facilitation on capacity building for project formulation to producer member countries. She further emphasized the important role of country focal points to screen out the project proposals.

The delegate of Benin questioned the sunset period of approved Category 1 projects. The Secretariat responded that this was in accordance with ITTO rules and procedures. The delegate of Benin further expressed her concern that many project proposals fell under Category 4. To this question, the Secretariat invited the delegate of Benin to join the session of the CEM-CFI where the issue of concern will be discussed in conjunction report on the progress of PD 73/89 (M,F,I) under its Agenda Item 11.

The Committees noted that the Fifty-second Meeting of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals scheduled to be held in Yokohama, Japan on 25-29 July 2016 was postponed due to financial constraints.

### **Item 5 – New Projects and Pre-Projects**

The Committee noted the projects and pre-projects that were approved under the time-bound electronic no objection procedures to accept the Expert Panel's ratings and circulated to member countries pursuant to Decision 6(XLIII), as contained in Document ITTC/EP-51, following the recommendations of the Expert Panel at its Fifty-first Meeting, as follows:

**Fifty-first Expert Panel**

Category 1:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 776/15 Rev.2 (F)	Enhancement of the Wildland Fire Prevention and Control System for the Sustainable Management of ONAB's Plantations (Benin)	Benin
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	Ghana
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	Mali
PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F)	Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin	Benin
PD 824/16 Rev.1 (F)	Promoting Sustainable Development and Utilization of Kemenyan ( <i>Styrax</i> spp.) Resource Involving Local Stakeholders in Toba Region of North Sumatra Province, Indonesia	Indonesia
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	Ghana
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)	India

Category 4:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 769/15 Rev.2 (F)	Governance and Local Community Participation in Mangrove Forest Management and Restoration in the Gulf of Fonseca, Honduras	Honduras
PD 797/15 Rev.1 (F)	Participatory Development, Conservation and Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Landscapes in the Bamboutos Highlands, West Cameroon	Cameroon
PD 799/15 Rev.1 (F)	Gender Mainstreaming in the Development of Actions to Control Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Central Africa	Cameroon
PD 811/16 (F)	Susa Range Forest Restoration Project	Ghana
PD 814/16 (F)	Promoting the Sustainable Production and Utilization of Mahoganies for Timber and Non-Timber Products by Industrial and Community Stakeholders in the West African Region	Ghana
PD 816/16 (F)	Transboundary Rural Landscape Restoration in Costa Rica and Panama for Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Goods and Services Production	Costa Rica and Panama
PD 829/16 (F)	Reducing Biodiversity Loss Caused by Deforestation and Tropical Forest Degradation	Ecuador

The Committee noted that the Fifty-second Meeting of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals scheduled for 25-29 July 2016 was postponed due to financial constraints.

**Item 6 – ITTO Annual Market Discussion -2016**

The Committees noted the summary of the ITTO Annual Market Discussion – 2016, held in the Joint Session of the Committees on 9 November 2016, as contained in Appendix A to Document CEM-CFI(L)/4. The theme of the Market Discussion was “Free Trade Agreements - Challenges and Opportunities for the Tropical Timber Trade”. Mr. Jorge Malleux (Peru) and Mr. Barney Chan (TAG Coordinator) co-chaired the Market Discussion.

The following feature presentations were made during the Market Discussion:

Prof. Labode Popoola  
Forest Economics/Sustainable Development  
University of Ibadan, Nigeria and  
President, Forestry Association of Nigeria

*Free Trade Agreements and Wood Export in  
West Africa: Nigeria as a Case Study*

Mr. Enrique Téllez Pacheco  
Presidente  
Cámara Nacional de la Industria Maderera, Mexico

*Free Trade Agreements: Impact on the Tropical  
Timber Trade in Mexico*

Mr. Jirawat Tangkijngamwong  
Chairman, Thai Timber Association  
Director of Deesawat Industries Co. Ltd/  
Deesawat Design Co., Ltd, Thailand

*Open Trade Drives Finished Product Exports  
and Design Opportunities*

Mr. André de Boer  
Secretary General  
European Timber Trade Federation , Holland

*FTA'S - The Promotion of Tropical Timber in  
Europe*

Mr. Joe O'Donnell  
Senior Manager for Government and Public Affairs  
Intl. Wood Products Association (IWPA)

*On the Brink of Historic Agreement, Skepticism  
Colours Trade Debate in the U.S.*

Mr. Erik Luis Fischer Llanos  
Presidente del Comité Forestal  
Asociación de Exportadores (ADEX), Peru

*The Impact of Trade Agreements on Tropical  
Timber Trade*

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

### **Item 7 - Report on Completed Projects and Pre-projects**

The Committee considered the completed projects and pre-projects contained in Document CRF(L)/2.

The Committee noted that PD 346/05 Rev.2 (F) "Conservation and Recovery of Degraded Land in Family Agriculture Units in the Eastern Brazilian Amazon (Brazil)" and PD 581/10 Rev.2 (F) "Establishing a Geographical Information System for the Sustainable Management of the Forest Area in Togo", had come to be ready for completion upon the receipt of pending documents.

#### **7.1 Completed Projects**

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

The Committee took note that implementation of this project had contributed to formalize the gazetting of Si-Kop Forest through the decree signed in August 2013 by the Prime Minister of Cameroon. It also contributed to the preparation of the management plan of Si-Kop Forest, which was approved in July 2015 by the Government of Cameroon. From the project's lessons and results, it is important to mention that the mid-term evaluation was a good opportunity to readjust the expected outputs of this project taking into account the changes in the target project areas.

The Delegation of Cameroon thanked ITTO and the donor country (Japan) for funding this project which had made the following achievements:

- Establishment of 20,395 hectares of production forests with a management plan approved by the Government of Cameroon;
- Creation of three community forests with simplified management plans also approved by the Government of Cameroon for the benefit of communities living around Si-Kop Forest.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Completion Report, Consultant's Technical Reports, Workshop Reports and the Final Financial Audit Report had been delivered by the Executing Agency in

accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed, after the compliance of the Executing Agency with the follow-up actions related to the assessment of the Final Financial Audit Report.

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

The Committee noted that this project had contributed to the establishment and management of production-protection community forests in Lower and Middle Atrato, Department of Choco, Colombia. The Committee also noted that the majority of the project activities had been carried out with the use of counterpart funds, and the Executing Agency submitted an official notification to relinquish the last three ITTO disbursements for a total of US\$ 240,000 and reimburse unspent ITTO funds. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Executing Agency, CODECHOCO, had submitted the Completion Report and a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Completion Report had been uploaded on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination and could be obtained also from the Executing Agency upon written request.

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

The Committee noted that this project had contributed to the rehabilitation of degraded forests in the Eastern Brazilian Amazon. The Committee further noted that the Executing Agency, EMBRAPA Eastern Amazon, had submitted the Completion Report, several technical reports, as well as an article for the TFU. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the submission of the Final Financial Audit Report had been formally guaranteed by the Brazilian Federal Control, which is responsible for the audit of governmental institutions. In this light, the Committee considered this project as completed.

The Secretariat also informed the Committee that these reports and other means of verification would be made available either from the Executing Agency upon written request or ITTO website.

Ms. Valeria Rigueira, the delegate of Brazil gave a presentation to the Committee on the project's main achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt.

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

The Committee noted that this project had significantly contributed to the sustainable management of tropical forests in southeastern Mexico and the improvement of livelihoods of the forest-dependent local communities. The Committee also noted that the Executing Agency, INIFAP, had submitted the Completion Report, several technical reports and the Final Financial Audit Report. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the documented products and outputs of this project had been uploaded on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and could be also obtained from the Executing Agency upon written request.

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

The Committee noted that the implementation of this project had contributed to the introduction and promotion of appropriate techniques, that can be used by the local communities for the ex-situ (in home gardens) and in-situ conservation (in natural habitats) of medicinal plants by local communities. For the successful implementation of this project, the main lesson learned was the early involvement of key stakeholders, including selected local communities, from the beginning of the project implementation, for the smooth implementation and completion of projects.

The Committee noted that the Completion Report and Final Financial Audit Report had been submitted by the Executing Agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

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

The Committee noted that the project had significantly contributed to the implementation of community-based forest fire prevention and control activities in Panama. The Committee noted further that the Executing Agency had submitted the Completion Report, several technical reports and the Final Financial Audit Report. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the documented products and outputs of this project had been posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and could be also obtained from the Executing Agency upon written request.

The Delegation of Panama expressed its appreciation to the donors, the Governments of Japan and the Government of the U.S.A., and reported that this project had left many lessons to the forest firefighters in Panama, as well as the facilities such as the surveillance towers. The Delegation of the U.S.A. congratulated the Delegation of Panama on the successful implementation of this project and informed the Committee its continued efforts in the area of forest firefighting. The Delegation of Japan acknowledged the appreciation of the Delegation of Panama.

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

The Committee took note that the project had been implemented by the Royal Forest Department of Thailand and the Forestry Administration of Cambodia. The project had significantly strengthened ecosystem management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos with the improvement of local community livelihoods under the integrated conservation and development programmes. Sharing research results was also institutionalized as the basis of the formulation of sustainable management strategies of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex.

The Delegation of Thailand made a presentation to the Committee on the project's main achievements, outcomes and lessons learnt from the management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex. He highlighted the establishment and implementation of management plans incorporating research results on wide-ranging species and ecological processes; establishment of an institutional mechanism for coordination of trans-boundary biodiversity conservation; improved capacity of multi-stakeholders in biodiversity conservation and monitoring; and improved livelihoods of local communities. He also expressed two Executing Agencies' gratitude to the donor countries for financing the project. The Delegation of Japan commended the presentation and stressed the importance of wider dissemination of technical reports resulting from the project. In relation to a question on the most difficult thing in implementing the project involving the three countries from the Delegation of PNG, the Delegation of Thailand said that identifying a relevant agency in Laos was a big problem due to the non-membership of Laos to ITTO and that as an attempt to solve part of this problem, the project had worked closely with the Champasak University in Laos in biodiversity and wildlife conservation research.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the two Executing Agencies had submitted the completion reports, several technical reports and the financial audit reports in accordance with the rules of ITTO. The project's digital products and outputs have been posted on the ITTO website for wider dissemination, and can be further downloaded via ITTO online project search engine, or requested directly from the Executing Agency upon written request. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

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

The Committee took note that the implementation of this project had contributed to the operationalization of the collection and processing of forestry sector data with the use of modern equipment and materials and appropriate methodologies (using ArcGIS software and other software for statistical calculation) in five administrative regions of Togo.

The Committee noted that the Completion Report and the Final Financial Audit Report had been submitted by the Executing Agency in accordance with the Project Agreement. The Committee therefore decided to consider the project as completed.

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

The Committee took note that the project had directly addressed the critical need for strengthening forest law enforcement in the Permanent Forest Estates (PFEs) of Monduliri and Kratie Provinces in Cambodia which have been suffered from inadequate capacities in controlling illegal forest activities although the two provinces are among the richest in forest and biodiversity resources. The Secretariat informed the Committee that many project activities had been implemented in cooperation with key stakeholders, including local governments, NGOs and community leaders.

The Delegation of Cambodia made a presentation on the main achievements of this project to the Committee. He highlighted the operation of a well-functioning forest crime information system and updated technical guidelines for FLEG operations; involvement of over 570 community leaders and members in various trainings on techniques relating to livelihood improvement; and improved public awareness on FLEG and SFM as well as enhanced operational capacity of FA in forestry extension operations. He also expressed the Cambodia Forestry Administration's gratitude to the donor countries for financing the project. The Delegation of USA commented the project's important work on FLEG. In relation to her enquiry on the project's collaboration with international crime related initiatives, the Committee noted that the project worked with relevant FLEG initiatives under the current national forest programme on forest law enforcement. The Delegations of Kora and Japan commended the Delegation of Cambodia for the presentation and the successful completion of the project.

The Committee noted that the Executing Agency had submitted the completion report, several technical reports and the financial audit report in accordance with the rules of ITTO. The Secretariat informed the Committee that the project's digital products and outputs have been posted on the ITTO website for wider dissemination, and can be downloaded via ITTO online project search engine or requested directly from the Executing Agency upon written request. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

**10) PD 724/13 Rev.1 (F) Guidelines for the Management of Tara (Caesalpinia Spinosa) Plantations with a View to the Rehabilitation of Waste Lands in the Sub-Humid Tropics of the Coastal Region of Peru**

The Committee noted that this project had significantly contributed to the rehabilitation of degraded lands in the Peruvian coastal region and provided poor farmers with additional incomes. The Committee further noted that the Executing Agency had submitted the Completion Report, several technical documents, the Final Financial Audit Report and other products, in accordance with the Project Agreement. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the documented products and outputs of this project had been posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and could be also obtained from the Executing Agency upon written request.

Ing. Jorge Malleux of the Delegation of Peru gave a presentation to the Committee on the project's main achievements, outcomes and lessons learned. The Delegation of the U.S.A. expressed its gratitude to Ing. Malleux for his presentation and reminded the Committee that this project contributes to the global

efforts to restore degraded lands and landscapes, referring to the Bonn Challenge as well as the discussions at the IUCN World Conservation Congress hosted by the U.S.A. this year in Hawaii. In response to the question asked by the Delegation of the U.S.A., Ing. Malleux mentioned about the difficulties the project had faced at its initial stage in convincing the communities of the possibility of reforesting degraded lands.

## **7.2 Completed Pre-project**

The Committee noted that there was no pre-project to be declared complete at this session.

## **Item 8 - Ex-post Evaluation**

### **(A) Ex-post Evaluation Reports**

The Committees was informed that the following five thematic groups and associated twelve projects were selected for ex-post evaluation by the CRF at its Forty-ninth Session:

#### **1) Thematic Group Evaluation: Forest Management / Inventory**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| PD 142/02 Rev.2 (F) | Sustainable Production of National Forests under the “Regime of Forest Concessions” (Brazil)   |
| PD 248/03 Rev.4 (F) | Antimary Forest Management Regional Training Centre (Brazil)   |
| PD 438/06 Rev.2 (F) | Sustainable Forest Management for the Forest Production Area of the Northern and Northeastern Regions of the Department of Antioquia, Colombia |

#### **2) Thematic Group Evaluation: Biodiversity Conservation / Conservation Areas**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| PD 165/02 Rev.3 (F) | Conservation of Biological Diversity through Sustainable Forest Management Practices (Malaysia)                 |
| PD 288/04 Rev.2 (F) | Development of Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary as a Totally Protected Area, Phase IV (Final Phase) (Malaysia) |
| PD 451/07 Rev.1 (F) | Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Area: The Pulong Tau National Park, Sarawak State, Malaysia - Phase II  |

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

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| PD 372/05 Rev.1 (F) | Contribution to Forest Rehabilitation in Thailand's Areas Affected by Tsunami Disaster  |
| PD 501/08 Rev.1 (F) | Promoting Household Reforestation in Tropical Zone of Southwestern China through Development and Extension of Household-Oriented Techniques |

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

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| PD 54/00 Rev.4 (F)  | Genetic Resistance of Iroko to <i>Phytolyta lata</i> – Phase II (Côte d'Ivoire)                           |
| PD 377/05 Rev.3 (F) | Development of Cloning for Samba (Obéché), West African Mahogany and Tiokoué Tree Species (Côte d'Ivoire) |
| PD 419/06 Rev.3 (F) | Forest Seeds Management and Conservation (Côte d'Ivoire)  |

#### **5) Thematic Group Evaluation: Teak**

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F) | Ex-situ and In-situ Conservation of Teak ( <i>Tectona grandis</i> L.F.) to Support Sustainable Forest Management (Myanmar) |
|---------------------|--|

- a) Ex-post evaluation of PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F)
- b) Thematic assessment of all completed projects on Teak in cooperation with TEAKNET, IUFRO, FAO, and other relevant organizations/institutions.

The Secretariat reported the Committees at their Joint Session on the results of ex-post evaluation of PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F) under the Thematic Group of Teak, as contained in document CRF(L)/4, which was prepared by two consultants, Dr. Yazar Minn (Myanmar) and Dr. Reinhold Glauner (Switzerland). The Committees were informed by the Secretariat that the scope of the Thematic Group Evaluation of Teak was reduced only to PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F) due to financial constraints and that the evaluation was carried out with the engagement of IUFRO in the context of promoting cooperation between ITTO and IUFRO.

The Committees took note that the project had contributed to the establishment of a total of 150 acres of Seed Production Areas (SPAs) at six districts and two seed orchards for production of high quality seed. The Committee also took note of the findings of this ex-post evaluation, including:

- all technical aspects of the project are still in place and maintained although there is one exception; plot management objectives are not periodically reconfirmed;
- upscaling effect in communities is low; weak community forestry policy; and
- need for training of field staff to improve their forestry technical knowledge.

Furthermore, the Committee took note that the evaluation made a number of recommendations for the Forest Department of Myanmar. These include:

- integrating tree improvement and gene conservation of teak into upcoming forest policy development;
- critically reviewing all technical papers, guidelines, manuals for SPA management;
- integrating community specialists in SPA management; and
- carrying out forest appraisals such as commercial value assessments of SPAs for determination of seed prices.

The evaluation's recommendations for ITTO include:

- ensure integration of results of technical projects into national forest policy during the project planning phase; ensure application of appropriate methods and specialists when technical-oriented projects are combined with social/community forest approaches; and
- continue to support technical approaches in forestry, which are definitely needed to advance forestry as a science-based land management.

The Delegation of Thailand provided information on teak genetic and tree improvement activities in Thailand, such as the establishment of a teak improvement centre, seed orchards and seed production areas. He said that the Royal Forest Department is interested in increasing collaboration on teak with interested parties in ITTO member countries including Myanmar. He also looked forward to ITTO's continued support to teak, one of the most valuable commercial species. The Committees commended the consultants for their report as well as the collaboration between ITTO and IUFRO in conducting the ex-post evaluation of the teak project in Myanmar.

### **Item 9 - Policy Work**

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

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

The Secretariat reported the Committee on the progress having been made in the implementation of this activity, as follows:

- The activity was a part of the ITTO Biannual Work Program (BWP) 2013-2014 approved by the Council at its Forty-eighth Session in 2012 and financed by Switzerland in the same year. The aim of the activity was to convene an expert meeting to review the ITTO Criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of tropical forests (C&I) based on the C&I-related work of ITTO, as well as the related international developments, and to print the revised C&I following its approval.
- The expert meeting was convened in Luderenalp, Switzerland in June 2015 following the approval and the publication of the revised ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests. The report of the expert meeting, including a draft of the revised ITTO C&I, was

posted on the ITTO website from August to October 2015 to receive inputs from ITTO member countries. Four countries, namely Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Portugal, provided written comments on the introductory text and a number of indicators.

- At the Forty-ninth Session of the Committee held in November 2015, the consultant, Dr. Jürgen Blaser, made a brief presentation on the draft of revised C&I focusing on the process and nature of the revision and addressing the comments received from the four countries. Additional comments were received from the Committee, including on how the revised C&I relates to existing national C&I and how safeguards issues are addressed in the revised C&I, among others.
- Based on these comments, the draft C&I was further reviewed and revised for finalization. The final set of the revised C&I was published in August 2016 as the ITTO Policy Development Series 21. The publication has been available on the ITTO website.

There was no comment from the Committee regarding this activity.

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

The Secretariat reported the Committee on the progress having been made in the implementation of this activity, as follows:

- The activity was approved as a part of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme (BWP) 2015-2016 adopted by the Council in November 2014. The aim of the activity was to strengthen practical actions and partnerships to facilitate the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove forests and their ecosystems. Specific actions planned under this activity include:
  - Review of actions having been taken by ITTO and other organizations and stakeholders; and
  - Organization of an international conference to share lessons learned, discuss challenges and opportunities and identify strategies and practical actions ITTO and its member countries can take.
- Upon the receipt of the contribution of US\$50,000 from the Government of the U.S.A., the Secretariat undertook a study in collaboration with the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) in 2015. The study covered the following work:
  - Review and analysis of mangrove-related activities and projects ITTO and other organizations have carried out;
  - Identification of priority areas for developing ITTO strategies and action plan; and
  - Preparation of a background paper for the international conference.
- At the Forty-ninth Session of this Committee held in 2015, outcomes of the study were presented by Professor Shigeyuki Baba, Executive Director of ISME.

Referring to the recommendation by the Informal Advisory Group (IAG) to extend the BWP 2015-2016 for another year, the Secretariat informed the Committee of the following:

- The remaining balance of the provided US\$50,000, which was about US\$22,000, was lost as a result of the impairment of ITTO funds;
- On the other hand, the Government of Japan provided its voluntary contribution of US\$100,000 in March 2016 to finance the implementation of this activity; and
- The Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia has also committed to providing US\$22,000 to cover the local costs associated with the organization of the conference on condition that the funds are spent before the fasting month of next year.

The Secretariat expressed its appreciation to the two countries for their generous support. The Secretariat further informed the Committee that the estimated budget for the implementation of this activity was US\$250,000 for the second year and there was still the need for additional funds for the organization of an international conference on mangrove. The Secretariat called the member countries and other donors for further contribution.

In response to the call for financial assistance, the Delegation of the U.S.A. indicated its intention to contribute to the implementation of this activity, emphasizing the importance of mangrove forests in reducing disaster risks and increasing resilience to climate change.

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

The Committee took note that three national case studies had been conducted in all three tropical timber producing regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America) through the activities in the following countries:

- Ghana with a multidisciplinary team (Dr. Dominic Blay as Team Leader, Dr. Beatrice Obiri and Dr. Mark Appiah as members) which had already been involved in the implementation of a previous ITTO Activity in forest landscape restoration (FLR) in Ghana;
- Indonesia with Dr. Hiras Sidabutar supported by national experts; and
- Mexico by Dr. David Douterlungne (within the framework of cooperation between BirdLife International and ITTO).

The Committee was informed that based on the findings and results of the three abovementioned national case studies, Dr. Kathleen Buckingham and Ms. Sarah Weber from the World Resources Institute (WRI) prepared a technical report entitled “*Assessing the ITTO guidelines for the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests: case studies of Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico*”. This technical report was considered also as a contribution of ITTO to the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), as a GPFLR member, for sharing knowledge and practices in forest landscape restoration. For more details on the findings and results, this technical report is available in three ITTO working languages (English, French and Spanish) through the following links:

- [http://www.itto.int/technical\\_report/](http://www.itto.int/technical_report/);
- [http://www.itto.int/fr/technical\\_report/](http://www.itto.int/fr/technical_report/);
- [http://www.itto.int/es/technical\\_report/](http://www.itto.int/es/technical_report/).

The Committee was also informed that these WRI experts had also prepared an article which was published in the ITTO quarterly *Tropical Forest Update (TFU)*. The article was published in the TFU issue 25-2 available through the following link: <http://www.itto.int/tfu/id=4867>. A poster was also produced in order to be used as a publicity material regarding ITTO achievements in FLR and it is available through the following link: [http://www.itto.int/files/user/pdf/posters/ITTO\\_WRI\\_Poster%20FINAL%20v6.pdf](http://www.itto.int/files/user/pdf/posters/ITTO_WRI_Poster%20FINAL%20v6.pdf)

The Committee was further informed that the abovementioned technical report was launched and presented on 6 December 2015, in Paris, France, at a learning session of the Global Landscapes Forum 2015 which was organized in conjunction with the Twenty-first Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21 UNFCCC).

**(iv) Development of “Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects” [CRF(L)/5]**

The Secretariat updated the Committee on the development of “Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects (ESIA guidelines)”. The Committee took note of the following:

- The draft Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects were prepared by two consultants, Dr. James Gasana (Switzerland) and Mr. Ricardo Umali (The Philippines) in September 2015. The draft was presented by Dr. James Gasana to the Committee at its Forty-ninth Session in November 2015.
- The Committee in November 2015 recognized the importance of developing of ESIA Guidelines and recommended that a new streamlined and user-friendly version be presented for further review at next session of the Committee in 2016.
- Based on the Committee’s recommendation last year, the draft had been simplified and streamlined with the engagement of the two consultants. In addition to streamlining the sections with general information, the main chapter “ITTO Environmental and Social Requirements” was also simplified and became more user-friendly. In its main part, the revised draft has the following three chapters: 1) overarching policy and principles; 2) ITTO’s management of environmental and social risks; and 3) environmental and social requirements.
- Eight working areas for the application of environmental and social requirements include: 1) rehabilitation of degraded landscapes, 2) timber producing forests; 3) community-based natural

resource management; 4) biodiversity conservation in timber producing forests; 5) watershed management areas and environmental services; 6) forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation; 7) planted forests; and 8) forest industries and trade.

The Delegation of the EU noted that the revised draft Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects have been streamlined in a user-friendly way. She supported the adoption of the revised draft Guidelines at this session. In relation to an enquiry from the Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire regarding the availability of French version, the Secretariat replied that French and Spanish versions of the revised draft Guidelines are not made available while the French and Spanish versions of the draft Guidelines can be found on the ITTO website.

The Delegation of the USA thanked the two consultants for streamlining the draft ESIA Guidelines in a user-friendly way. She stressed the importance of enhancing the environment and social aspects of ITTO projects and pointed out that projects in community forestry and landscapes restoration can improve their environmental and social performances in line with the Global Partnership for Forest Landscapes Restoration (GPFLR) and taking into account the proposed ESIA guidelines. With regard to the Category C in the preliminary categorization of projects (annex 2) of the revised draft ESIA guidelines, she suggested providing more elaborations on relevant projects and activities. She recommended the adoption of the revised draft ESIA Guidelines and the use of them as a living document in a pilot phase.

In light of the importance of improving the systematic identification and avoidance of risks in ITTO project design and implementation for the people and the environment, the Committed decided to adopt the Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects subject to amendments proposed by Members during its Fiftieth Session. The Committee strongly recommended the wider application of the adopted ESIA Guidelines by the Secretariat and Member Countries submitting projects for funding in their proposal where appropriate, as a pilot phase, until the modifications of the ITTO Project-related guidelines and manuals to reflect the guidance of the ESIA Guidelines. Furthermore, the Committee recommended that an activity for the modifications of the ITTO Project-related guidelines and manuals should be included in the future BWP where appropriate.

**(v) Development of ITTO Guidelines to Incorporate Gender Equity in the Organization's Activities, Programmes and Projects in Member Countries [Activity 2, ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(L)] [PP-A/50-297]**

The Secretariat reported the Committee on the activities having been undertaken in 2015 and summarized the discussion took place at the Fifty-first Session of the Council in 2015, as follows:

- This activity was approved by the Council at its Fiftieth Session in 2014 under the ITTO Biennial Work Programme (BWP) 2015-2016 and financed by the USA. The activity was undertaken by the Secretariat in 2015 and a report was presented by the consultant, Dr. James Gasana (Switzerland), at the Fifty-first Session of the Council held in November 2016 under its Agenda Item 18. The report contained in Document ITTC(LI)/12 Rev.1 can be downloaded from the ITTO website.
- A summary of the report includes, among others:
  - There is considerable evidence, as well as common international recognition and understanding, that advancing gender equality helps us achieve broader development objectives, such as poverty alleviation and inclusive growth in pursuit of sustainable development;
  - Efforts have been made by the international community to advance gender equality, and major forest-related international organizations have developed and have been implementing their respective strategy/policy/plan to ensure gender equality in conducting their work;
  - However, Gender equality is insufficiently addressed in many of the key instruments of ITTO, including the ITTA, 2006, ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, programme documents of the ITTO Thematic Programmes and various policy guidelines ITTO has developed for forest management;
  - In order for ITTO to ensure gender equality and to enhance women's empowerment, a set of seven policy commitments, as well as 38 actions and 31 indicators, is proposed as ITTO guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment; and
  - The seven commitments identified in the report include:
    - Ensuring that no person is discriminated on grounds, inter alia, of sex or gender in any area of ITTO's work (Commitment 1);
    - Ensuring participation of men and women in decision-making processes of the Council, Committees and subsidiary bodies (Commitment 2);
    - Implementing gender mainstreaming in all ITTO's work (Commitment 3);

- Developing partnerships with civil society, private organizations and other international agencies that are active in the field of GEWE to ensure ITTO's progress in this field in the area of its work (Commitment 4)
- Providing the empowerment of women through implementation of gender responsive programmes, projects and activities (Commitment 5);
- Building ITTO organizational and members capacity for the implementation of ITTO's GEWE Guidelines (Commitment 6); and
- Allocating appropriate resources for implementing gender equality and equity mainstreaming (Commitment 7).

Then, the Secretariat summarized the discussion at the Fiftieth-first Session of the Council, as follows:

- During the discussion took place following the presentation of the report, the following points were raised by the delegates on the proposed guidelines:
  - The delegate of Norway, supported by the EU, proposed that the draft guidelines be revised into more accessible language to facilitate their implementation;
  - The delegate of Indonesia noted the necessity for gender analysis at the project design stage, given that customary and traditional law varies from region to region;
  - The delegate of Papua New Guinea proposed the establishment of a working group to take this issue further;
  - The delegates of the EU proposed clearer mention of the roles and responsibilities of relevant actors, human rights, the work of UN Women, and adequate outreach and training to accompany the guidelines;
  - The delegate of Benin suggested that implementation of the guidelines include integration into future ITTO Action Plans; and
  - The delegate of the USA proposed the gender-disaggregated monitoring of employment in timber-related high-level positions.
- Due to the exhaustion of provided funds, no follow-up work has been undertaken since the Fifty-first Session of the Council. In consideration of the importance of the work, the Secretariat wishes to seek guidance again from the member countries on the way forward in the development of guidelines for gender equality and women's empowerment. In doing so, the Secretariat has decided to move this agenda item from the Council to this Committee in consultation with the Chairpersons of the Council and the Committee in light of the fact that these guidelines would ultimately be integrated mainly into the formulation, implementation and evaluation of ITTO projects, including those under the ITTO Thematic Programmes.

The Chairperson invited the Committee to provide the Secretariat with its views and guidance on the way forward in the development of gender guidelines and women's empowerment.

There was no comment from the Committee. The Chairperson encouraged the Committee members to provide the Secretariat with comments, as well as indication of financial contribution if any, during the Council for the advancement of this important activity.

### **Item 10 – Biennial Work Programme of the Committees for 2017-2018**

The Committee noted that the Council had decided to extend the duration of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme for the Years 2015-2016 (BWP 2015-2016) for another year following the recommendation made by the Informal Advisory Group, as contained in Document ITTC(LII)/2. Then, the Committee was invited to provide its views, ideas and proposals for the activities to be included in the BWP 2018-2019, which will be discussed by the Committee at its Fifty-first Session and adopted by the Council at its Fifty-third Session. The Committee was also encouraged to propose topics to be discussed at the Fifty-first Session of the Committee under its Agenda Item on Policy Work.

The Delegation of the USA expressed its interest in supporting the work to refine and finalize the gender guidelines, emphasizing its importance not only in receiving accreditation to the Green Climate Fund but also in improving the quality of ITTO projects. Responding to the inquiry from the Delegation of the USA, the Secretariat informed the Committee that funds are required to proceed with the work and a possible process to finalize the guidelines would be as follows:

- Hire a consultant and incorporate the comments received from the Council at its Fifty-first Session into the current draft guidelines;
- Upload the draft guidelines on the ITTO website for no-objection; and
- Revise the draft taking into account the comments received, if any, and finalize the guidelines.

## **Item 11 – Review of Projects and Pre-projects in Progress**

The Committee was informed that the Secretariat's report and the Committee's discussion were limited to the following projects and pre-projects in order to expedite proceedings, in accordance with the Section VI of Annex A to Decision 4(XXV):

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

The Committee was further informed that the projects and pre-projects that had not fallen into the aforementioned categories by the time of the suspension of installments of funds were to be excluded from the Secretariat's report and Committee's discussion although most of the approved projects and pre-projects had been impacted by the suspension.

### **11.1 Projects**

The Committee took note of the status of projects that had been approved by the Council, as contained in Document CRF(L)/3, as categorized: (A) projects under implementation (twenty-seven projects); (B) projects awaiting implementation agreement (five projects); (C) projects awaiting financing (twenty-three projects); and (D) projects coming under the sunset provisions since the last session (seven projects).

The Secretariat informed the Committee that projects that had been declared completed at the previous sessions but were still pending Final Financial Audit Reports were re-inserted into Document CRF(L)/3.

Then, the Committee considered the implementation issues, details of which were as follows:

#### **(A) Projects under implementation**

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

The Committee took note that the implementation of this project had contributed to the development of a national set of Principles, Criteria & Indicators (PC&I) for the sustainable management of forest plantations in the Republic of Congo which was validated by all relevant stakeholders. The developed national set of PC&I included: four Principles, twenty-three Criteria and one hundred Indicators, as well as two hundred fifty Verifiers for Indicators.

The Committee also noted that, in December 2010, the Secretariat received the Completion Report; however, the Final Financial Audit Report has not been submitted. The Committee recalled that it had already urged the Executing Agency to submit the Final Financial Audit Report at its Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Sessions.

The Committee further noted that subsequent to the aforementioned situation, a termination notice was sent in April 2016 informing the Executing Agency that the Secretariat would be obliged to recommend the termination of this project, unless the Final Financial Audit Report is submitted in due time. As no Final Financial Audit Report was submitted to the Secretariat, the Committee recommended to the Council the termination of this project.

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

The Committee noted that the Inception Report received by the Secretariat in October 2016 has not been approved by the Secretariat due to its incompleteness. The Committee also took note of the indication expressed by the Executing Agency in its Inception Report that the project scope would need to be broadened to take into account the changes in the development scenario in the Brazilian Amazon. As a result of the consultation, the Delegation of Brazil ensured the resubmission of the Inception Report in its standard format with the necessary attachment. The Delegation also assured the Committee of the

compliance with the relevant project manuals and guidelines at all stages of the implementation of this project. In this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to resubmit a satisfactory Inception Report. The Committee also urged the Executing Agency to ensure the project implementation compliant with the relevant project manuals and guidelines while keeping its relevance to the changes in the local circumstances. The Committee further requested the Secretariat to closely monitor the implementation of this project.

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

The Committee noted that the implementation of project activities had been progressing at a slow pace with the change of the project team members. The Delegation of Thailand informed the Committee that with the engagement of two national consultants, the project is starting the formulation of 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 the country. In order to avoid any further delay of project implementation, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to fulfil its commitment to the efficient implementation of this project with the engagement of appropriate resource persons.

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

The Committee took note that no Progress Report was submitted by the Executing Agency both in February and August 2016. The Annual Financial Audit Report was not submitted either by end of March 2016. Therefore, the Secretariat was not able to update the Committee on the status of the implementation of this project. In this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's rules and procedures and submit all pending Progress Reports, as well as the Annual Financial Audit Report, at its earliest convenience, but not later than end of February 2017 (for Progress Report) and end of March 2017 (for Annual Financial Audit Report).

**5) PD 563/09 Rev.5 (F) Community Based Forest Management of Sungai Medihit Watershed (Malaysia)**

The Committee noted that this project has been supported by APFNet under a MOU between ITTO and APFNet on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management and that many project activities have been implemented on the ground for indigenous peoples of Kelabit and Long Napir communities. However, the Committee also noted that there is a need for the Executing Agency to improve their timely and quality reporting of project implementation in accordance with the rules and procedures of APFNet.

The Delegation of Malaysia expressed its appreciation to APFNet for financing the project and updated the Committee on improvements in community forest management in Sungai Medehit Watershed, alternative livelihoods development and installation of two solar power systems as well as construction of more than 1km of road to Kampong Bahagia. For effective reporting, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to submit all pending documents following APFNet's guidelines and formats and within the established timelines.

**(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**

The Committee took note that the 36 month project was approved under Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic no-objection procedure and funds were pledged by Japan in March 2016. However, the Project Agreement to regulate project implementation has been pending due to the issue of the impairment of investments. The Committee took note that the Project Agreement to regulate the implementation of this project will be suspended until a decision is made by the Council at its Fifty-second Session on the allocation of funds.

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

The Committee took note that the 36 month project was approved under Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic no-objection procedure and funds were pledged by Japan in March 2016. However, the Project Agreement to regulate project implementation has been pending due to the issue of the impairment of investments. The Committee took note that the Project Agreement to regulate the implementation of this project will be suspended until a decision is made by the Council at its Fifty-second Session on the allocation of funds.

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

The Committee took note that the 36-month project was approved under Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, and funds were fully pledged in March 2016, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. However, the Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project has been pending due the issue of the impairment of investments. Therefore, the preparation of the Project Agreement will depend on the decision of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council regarding the allocation of funds.

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

The Committee took note that the project was approved under Autumn 2014 Project Cycle and received funds from the Government of Japan in April 2016. However, preparation of a project agreement for regulating project implementation has been suspended due to the issue of the impairment of investments. The Committee noted that the preparation of the project agreement will be finalized as soon as a decision is made by the Council at its Fifty-second Session on the reallocation of funds. The Delegation of PNG expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for financing the project and looked forward to the implementation of the project in 2017.

**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)**

The Committee took note that the project was approved under Autumn 2015 Project Cycle and received funds from the Government of Japan in April 2016. However, preparation of a project agreement for regulating project implementation has been suspended due to the issue of the impairment of investments. The Committee noted that the preparation of the project agreement will be finalized as soon as a decision is made by the Council at its Fifty-second Session on the reallocation of funds.

**(C) Projects awaiting financing**

The Committee noted that the following twenty-three projects approved at earlier and current sessions were still awaiting funding, out of which twelve projects will be sunset if funding is not made available before the next session. The Chairperson encouraged the Committee members and other donors to provide funding for the implementation of these projects.

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

2) PD 690/13 Rev.4 (F) Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forests and Sustainable Rural Development in the Peruvian Amazon Region (Peru)

- 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)
- 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)
- 5) \*PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar – Phase I & II (Myanmar)
- 6) PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra (Indonesia)
- 7) PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp) (Indonesia)
- 8) PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (*Diospyros celebica* Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia)
- 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
- 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
- 11) \*PD 765/14 Rev.2 (F) Development of a Forest Landscape Restoration Program for Guatemala Based on ITTO Guidelines
- 12) \*PD 772/15 Rev.1 (F) Improved Application of Growth and Yield Models to Forest Management Planning in the Amazon Basin (Brazil)
- 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)
- 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)
- 15) \*PD 775/15 Rev.2 (F) Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico
- 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)
- 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)
- 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
- 19) \*PD 785/15 Rev.1 (F) Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics (Mexico)

- 20) \*PD 794/15 Rev.1 (F) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador
- 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
- 22) PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F) Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin
- 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

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

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

The Committee noted that seven projects had become sunset since its 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

#### **11.2 Pre-project**

The Committee took note of the status of approved pre-projects, as contained in Document CRF(L)/3, and considered the implementation issues, details of which were as follows:

##### **(A) Pre-projects under implementation**

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

The Committee took note that it had already urged the Executing Agency to make necessary arrangements for the submission of the Technical Report, the Completion Report, as well as the Final Financial Audit Report, at its Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth, Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Sessions.

The Committee was informed that subsequent to the aforementioned situation, a termination notice was sent in April 2016 informing the Executing Agency that the Secretariat would be obliged to recommend the termination of this pre-project, unless the abovementioned reports are submitted in due time. As these abovementioned reports were not submitted to the Secretariat, the Committee recommends to the Council the termination of this pre-project.

**(B) Pre-projects awaiting implementation agreement**

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

**(C) Pre-projects awaiting financing**

The Committee noted that four pre-projects approved at earlier and current sessions were still awaiting funding, out of which two pre-projects will be sunset if funding is not secured before the next session. The Chairperson encouraged the Committee members and other donors to provide funding for the implementation of these pre-projects.

- 1) \*PPD 178/14 Rev.2 (F) Support to the Creation of Green Belts around the Waza, Benoué, Faro and Bouba Ndjidda National Parks (Cameroon)
- 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)
- 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
- 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)

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

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

The Committee noted that five pre-projects have become sunset since its 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, Department of Nyong-and-Kélé, 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 Côte d'Ivoire
- 5) PPD 181/14 Rev.1 (F) Feasibility Study on The Payment of Ecosystem Services Provided by Forests in Benin

**Item 12 - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2017**

Ms. Marjukka Mähönen (Finland) was elected as Chairperson for 2017. Mr. Dambis Kaip (PNG) was elected as Vice-Chairperson for 2017.

### **Item 13 - Dates and Venues of the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Sessions of the Committee**

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

The Fifty-second Session of the Committee would be held in conjunction with the Fifty-fourth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council to be convened in Yokohama, Japan.

### **Item 14 - Other Business**

The Delegation of Panama drew the attention of the Committee to the critical importance and possible financing of 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)" as it reaches the sunset soon. He was further wondering whether this project's validity could be extended taking into account the suspension period of all projects despite the sunset provision.

The Delegation of USA indicated its interest in supporting restoration projects in relation to the Global Partnership for Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) and the CITES-related projects in the list of project awaiting financing. She looked forward to figuring out a final list before the end of this session.

The Delegation of Togo sought clarification of the sunset provision. In response to the inquiry, the Secretariat clarified the current provision and suggested the submission of a revised proposal where appropriate in accordance with a new project cycle in 2017.

The Delegation of Benin expressed its appreciation to the USA for its interest in pending finance projects and encouraged other donors to follow the USA. She drew the attention of the Committee to the two projects awaiting financing which are PD 776/15 Rev.2 (F) "Enhancement of the Wildland Fire Prevention and Control System for the Sustainable Management of ONAB's Plantations (Benin)" and PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F) "Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin". She further highlighted the importance of PD 776/15 Rev.2 (F) in the prevention of wildland fire in Benin.

### **Item 15 - Recommendations to the International Tropical Timber Council**

(A) The Committee recommended that funding be made immediately available for the following projects and pre-project approved under the Project Cycle Spring 2016:

#### **Projects**

PD 776/15 Rev.2 (F)	Enhancement of the Wildland Fire Prevention and Control System for the Sustainable Management of ONAB's Plantations (Benin) [ITTO Budget: US\$ 397,936]
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 [ITTO Budget: US\$ 403,570]
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 [ITTO Budget: US\$ 486,586]
PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F)	Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin [ITTO Budget: US\$ 574,448]
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 [ITTO Budget: US\$ 564,894]

**Pre-projects**

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 [ITTO Budget: US\$ 76,440]

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) [ITTO Budget: US\$ 51,700]

(B) The Committee also recommended that the following project and pre-project be terminated:

**Project**

PD 367/05 Rev.2 (F)            Promotion of the Sustainable Management of Tropical Planted Forest in Congo's Tropical Forest Plantations (Republic of Congo) [ITTO Budget: US\$ 143,856]

**Pre-project**

PPD 94/04 Rev.1 (F)            Evaluation of the Status of Forest Resources in Côte d'Ivoire [ITTO Budget: US\$ 52,402]

(C) The Committee adopted the Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects (ESIA Guidelines) subject to amendments proposed by Members during its Fiftieth Session. The Committee recommended the implementation of a pilot phase for the wider application of the ESIA Guidelines and the modification of the ITTO's project-related manuals and guidelines through the submission of project proposals taking into account the ESIA Guidelines, as appropriate, for funding.

**Item 16 - Report of the Session**

The Committee accepted this Report for submission to the Council. The members of the Committee expressed their appreciation for the able manner in which the Chairperson conducted the session of the Committee with assistance of the Secretariat.

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