



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL  
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON  
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CRF(LI)/3 Rev.1  
15 November 2017

Original: ENGLISH

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FIFTY-FIRST SESSION  
27 November – 2 December 2017  
Lima, Peru

**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-eight (28) approved projects are currently under implementation while additional four (4) projects are awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are sixteen (16) approved projects still awaiting full financing while there are ten (10) 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 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 Dates 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 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)

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.

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of the CRF(L)/3 Document, last year. However, upon receipt of a

satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report by the Secretariat prior to its Fifty-first Session in December 2017, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed. Soft copies of abovementioned Completion Report and other documents can be made available by the Secretariat upon written request.

**(2) 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 (JICA):	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 Fiftieth 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:

<b>Project Activities</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>	<b>% of execution</b>
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	100
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	100
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	100
A.1.6 Forest seedlings disseminated to selected households among the local communities.	SODEFOR	100
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 who will be involved in the implementation of this project	SODEFOR and local community leaders	100
A.2.3 To organize training on the creation and management of associations and/or cooperatives for local communities	SODEFOR & Consultant	75
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	75
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 & Sub-contractors	60
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	100
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	83
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	60
A.3.5 Monitoring and evaluation of agroforestry plantations established by the local communities using the taungya method	SODEFOR, ITTO & Financial donors	75

- 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 have produced around 1.7 million of seedlings of Teak (*Tectona grandis*) representing two thirds of seedlings and indigenous species (*Tieghemela heckelii*, *Ricinodendron heudelotii*, *Khaya ivorensis*, *Pericopsis elata*, *Mansonia altissima* and *Iringia gabonensis*) representing one third of total;
- Around 1,640 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;
- The Executing Agency has contributed and encouraged the establishment of 18 local associations or cooperatives in ten villages (Zéaglo, Bedy-goazon, Guézon, Niambly, Guiglo, Nanandi, Samuelkro, Ladjikro, Sokoura and Tien-Oula), which were supported by the project for their involvement in the rehabilitation activities implemented in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests. The farming kits were also distributed to the communities of the abovementioned villages, for the production of food crops associated with trees under the agroforestry taungya modified system during the rehabilitation activities implemented in the Duékoué and Scio Gazetted Forests; and
- The construction of storage facilities for food crops, for local communities involved in the project implementation, was nearing completion for all 10 being constructed by two local sub-contractors.

The project extension was expected in order to allow the project executing agency to complete all planned activities, including the construction of storage facilities for food crops which should be also used to shelter processing machines for food crops produced in agroforestry plantations.

**(3) 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. It is important to reiterate that 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 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 all relevant documents, including satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, Completion Report and other necessary documents, prior to its Fifty-first Session, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed.

**(4) 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\$	1,447,891
ITTO Budget:		US\$	556,963
Government of Japan (MoFA)	US\$	556,963	
EMBRAPA:		US\$	576,807
MMA:		US\$	263,271
IFT:		US\$	50,850

Implementing Agency: Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (EMBRAPA), Belém, Pará

Period of Approval: Original version: Spring 2008  
Rev. 5: November 2014

Starting Date and Duration: July 2017 / 36 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2008 Project Cycle. The Government of Brazil resubmitted the proposal with a 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.

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, all installments of funds to ITTO projects were suspended from June to December 2016 due to ITTO financial issues and the implementation of the project based on a reduced budget was reviewed in early 2017. After finalizing an addendum to the project agreement in June 2017, the first installment was transferred in July 2017.

The development objective of the project aims to strengthen the adoption of good forest management practices by medium and large scale timber enterprises in the Brazilian Amazon through the transfer of the tools developed under its first phase PD 57/99 Rev.2 (F) "Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase I". In particular, this project intends to: consolidate the 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.

Expected project outputs include: 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 July 2017, the representatives from the Executing Agency, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Brazilian Forest Service and the ITTO Secretariat hold the first meeting of the project steering committee and made a set of recommendations for the efficient and effective implementation of the project in accordance with the amended project document and the rules and procedures of ITTO.

**(5) 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) Extension until January 2018 (NOLF.17-0027)

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 of 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 Project is operational since May 2012 with transfer of the first installment of funds 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.

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 problems since its beginning. After hiring and terminating the first two project coordinators, the third project coordinator was recruited and approved by the ITTO Secretariat in November 2015. The new coordinator has been able to mobilize communities to participate in project activities in line with its objectives. 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 could not be immediately released and project activities were suspended. After reviewing the reduction of project budget, the fourth reduced installment was released in Feb 2017 while the release of the fifth installment was made in July 2017.

With the resumption of the implementation of project activities in February 2017, main accomplished tasks are summarized as follows:

- Two community forest management plans were further elaborated by consolidating more technical and social information. Two management plans have been focused on Nova Maringá and Novo Paraíso communities in the Parauari River and São José do Cicantá community in the Cicantá river. During the preparation of plans, the participation of the community was very productive due to their involvement in the field activities.
- Two exchanging visits took place between the timber working groups of GTM and the AAMFC in March 2017 with the goal of training the group for the management of wood production. The covered topics were: i) crop blocks definition, (ii) opening of storage trails and yards, (iii) tree cutting, (iv) wood management, and (v) transportation.
- Two courses on occupational safety were held during April 2017 with the purpose of presenting the importance of occupational use of safety devices, risks and how to avoid accidents in the forest. The following topics were delivered: i) risks in the lumber sector, (ii) preventive measures, (iii) corrective measures, and (iv) maintenance of devices.
- A seminar on forest certification was held in April 2017. It provided an opportunity to review the importance of the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, providing fair working conditions and encouraging good relations with communities.
- The management working groups participated in a business round table meeting in March 2017 in the Boa Vista dos Ramos district which was carried out by the Agricultural and Forest Development of Amazonas Institute – IDAM. Two seminars on market challenges and opportunities for forest products were held in May 2017. Topics of the seminars included Brazilian timber markets, certification, value chain, added product value and credit.

In July 2017, the representatives from the Executing Agency, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), and the ITTO Secretariat hold the second meeting of the project steering committee and made a set of recommendations for the successful completion of the project in January 2018 in accordance with the rules and procedures of ITTO.

**(6) 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\$	4,000,981
ITTO Budget:		US\$	3,890,681
Government of Japan (JICA+MOFA)	US\$	3,523,645	
Government of Switzerland	US\$	270,000	
Government of Belgium	US\$	97,036	
RIFFEAC Training Institutions:		US\$	110,300

Implementing Agency: RIFFEAC Secretariat

Period of Approval: Spring 2011

Starting Date and Duration: March 2011 / 60 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension: March 2018 (NOLF.17-0067)

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. JICA contribution to this project was not impacted by the financial impairment issue. However, the ITTO budget from other donors was reduced from US\$593,327.69 to US\$555,555.69 [referring to Decision 6(LII) of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council and subsequent requirements], as it was impacted by the financial impairment.

Since the Fiftieth 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 of the costs of capital goods in relation to sub-contracts signed 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 [JICA funds]	V	Leroy Beaulieu	2	78,334	78,334	0
	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 [JICA funds]	V	Leroy Beaulieu	2	78,333	78,333	0
	C/R	Trinity	10	92,800	74,300	18,500
FASA-Dschang Université, Cameroon [JICA funds]	V	Leroy Beaulieu	2	78,333	78,334	0
	E.I.	INTERFACE	2	18,115	18,115	0
	C/R	SISERCO	6	176,510	176,510	0
	E.F.	ITKE	2	61,008	61,008	0
ISDR-Mbaïki, Central African Republic [JICA funds]	E.I.	Yang	2	49,962	49,962	0
	C/R	Groupe SYLVA	6	129,731	125,729	4,002
	E.F.	Yang	2	88,892	88,892	0
ENSAF-Brazzaville (ex. IDR), Rep. of Congo [JICA funds]	V	CFAO Congo	2	65,328	65,328	0
	E.I.	CGR	2	34,842	13,000	21,842
	C/R	Co-Maison	6	180,027	180,027	0
ERAIFT-Kinshasa, D. R. Congo [JICA funds]	E.I.	IT-COM	2	79,857	79,857	0
	V	CFAO RDC	2	74,214	74,214	0
	E.F.	GEOSCIENCE	3	84,500	82,853	1,647
ENEF-Libreville Gabon [Non-JICA funds]	C/R	SZTC	9	143,200	105,640	37,560
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1,655,118</b>	<b>1,571,567</b>	<b>83,551</b>

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

It appears from this table that the construction/rehabilitation of buildings is still on-going for ENEF-Mbalmayo (Cameroon) and ENEF-Libreville (Gabon) while it was completed for CRESA-Yaounde (Cameroon), ENSAF-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), FASA-Dschang (Cameroon) and ISDR-Mbaiki (Central African Republic). All vehicles were delivered to CRESA-Yaounde (Cameroon), ENEF-Mbalmayo (Cameroon), ENSAF-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo), ERAIFT-Kinshasa (D. R. Congo) and FASA-Dschang (Cameroon). Computers and accessories were fully delivered to CRESA-Yaounde (Cameroon), ERAIFT-Kinshasa (D. R. Congo) and ISDR-Mbaiki (Central African Republic),

while the delivery was partially made for ENSAF-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). Forest equipment and materials were fully delivered to CRESA-Yaounde (Cameroon), ERAIFT-Kinshasa (D. R. Congo), FASA-Dschang (Cameroon) and ISDR-Mbailki (Central African Republic).

- The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) continued the electronic-based 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. A sub-contractor was selected for the editing and printing of the training modules in order to facilitate their use in most training institutions which are regularly facing the electric power cut;
- Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) continued to interact for the operationalization/implementation of these twelve training modules/programme and 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 contributed to the gradual internalization of the reference training modules/programmes in each RIFFEAC training institution.

**(7) 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:	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 due to internal issues in Thailand, 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 to fully achieve the objective of the project.

The project aims to contribute to the 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.

This project had faced administrative problems since its beginning due to the weakness of the project management team. After passing away of the first project coordinator in late 2016, a new project coordinator was recruited and approved by the ITTO Secretariat in June 2017. The appointment of two national consultants from Kasetsart University was also finalized in June 2017 after the suspension of all installments of funds to all ITTO projects in June 2016.

The new coordinator is facilitating the implementation of project activities in line with the revised work plan. The two national consultants are currently working on the development 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 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. It is expected that the project activities will reach their completion in mid/late 2018 with an additional extension of project duration.

**(8) 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 Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- All activities under Output 1.1 (Seed sources of selected species identified and their suitable technology developed) and Output 1.2 (Technical guidelines for plantation technology of selected species developed and disseminated) were completed. These activities include:
  - Identification of seed sources for 2 selected indigenous species (*Michelia valutida* and *Durio spp*), Kayu Bawang (*Disoxylum mollissimum Bl*) and Durian Bentara (*Durio spp*) as locally adaptive and

prospective commodity species for plantation. A stand of Kayu Bawang and a mother tree of Durian Bentara were identified as their seed sources and subsequently certified by the provincial and national governments, respectively;

- Development of propagation and plantation techniques for the selected species. TOT for propagation technique of Durian Bentara and Kayu Bawang and training on Durian Bentara and Kayu Bawang planting technique were organized;
  - Preparation and development of technical guidelines on seed handling and planting for the species. Three sets of technical guidelines have been produced for seed handling and plantation of the identified two commodity species. These guidelines include: i) handling of seeds and seedlings of Kayu Bawang, ii) propagation of seedlings of Durian Buntara, and iii) plantation of Kayu Bawang and Durian Bentara; and
  - Workshop on plantation technologies of the selected species. It was successfully undertaken in October 2016 with the effective participation of all community representatives and established a demonstration plot for the selected species.
- All activities under Output 2.1 (High quality planting materials produced and distributed) and Output 2.2 (Community – forestry plantation model developed) are still in progress:
    - Improve nursery technology to produce and distribute planting materials (70% in progress);
    - Distribute high quality planting materials to participating communities (10% in progress);
    - Review and refine the existing community forestry plantation model (60% in progress); and
    - Develop and establish plantation model in 2 districts (30% in progress).

The Project Technical Committee convened its third meeting and conducted a field visit in July 2017. The meeting discussed issues on the engagement of more community members in the implementation of project activities. The meeting recommended continued close collaboration and consultations between the Executing Agency and project partners towards enhanced community participation in the restoration of degraded Forest in Bengkulu Province.

#### **(9) 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:	First Extension until 31 July 2016 (NOLF.15-0181) Second Extension until 31 Aug.2017 (NOLF.17-0023)

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 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, the fifth in November 2015, and the sixth and final payment in March 2017. All payments were made after verifying the executing agency's compliance with the conditions established in the project agreement for each of these payments.

Four Project Steering Committee meetings have taken place in Guatemala City and the project's areas of influence, the first in November 2013, the second in September 2014, the third in August 2015 and the

most recent one in July 2017. At this last meeting, the steering committee noted that 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 until nearly a year later. During this period, INAB decided to continue with some of the activities of the project with counterpart funds. Following the disbursement of the last instalment (net of an agreed 17% haircut to help deal with ITTO's financial impairment) in March 2017, project activities recommenced in full and a budget neutral extension was approved until late 2017.

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 Fiftieth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report presented at the PSC meeting in July 2017, 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 completed;
- The statistical evaluation of the distribution and number of existing permanent sample plots has been finalized;
- Data collection has been completed from a total of 920 plots: 880 in plantations, 15 in natural conifer forests and 25 in natural deciduous forests. The monitoring, data compilation and systematization of existing permanent sample plots will continue on an ongoing basis following project completion.
- 384 new permanent sample plots have been established in 9 of INAB's Regional Directorates, well beyond the originally planned 96 plots to be established by the project;
- The systematization of new monitoring information collected from the existing permanent sample plots is completed.

**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 has been completed and disseminated nationwide;
- The prioritization of tree species to be included in the technological packages has been finalized;
- The generation of growth and yield tables and curves for the prioritized species is complete; and
- The elaboration of the technological packages for 12 timber species (including teak (*Tectona grandis*)) has been finalized.

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

- The dissemination and outreach strategy is in place and two annual reports (2015-2016) on forest dynamics in Guatemala have been generated;
- Results have been prepared and uploaded on INAB and SIFGUA websites; and
- The design and publication of a geographic information system on permanent forest sample plots is complete.

**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 complete, with 18 workshops and other training events having been organized; and
- A strategy for disseminating all project results, among them studies, maps, technical documents and a Master's thesis is in place and continues to be implemented, including through ITTO's project search function on [www.itto.int](http://www.itto.int).

In summary, the project has successfully completed all activities and is expected to submit its final report and audited financial statement prior to the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee. If it does so and these reports are judged satisfactory, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(10) 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) Third Project extension: until December 2017 (NOLF.17-0093)		

This project has been approved and fully funded during the 44<sup>th</sup> 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 ITTO budget of this project was reduced from US\$396,310.00 to US\$385,800.00 [referring to Decision 6(LII) of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council and subsequent requirements], as it was impacted by the financial impairment.

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, there was no information available to update the level of the execution of the project activities for the Fiftieth CRF Session in November 2016.

The project implementation has been further extended until December 2017, without additional ITTO funds by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. It was agreed that the implementation of this project was to be subject to a special arrangement between the executing agency (FDA-Liberia) and a consultancy team led by Juergen

BLASER (as supervisor of two Liberian students preparing their PhD thesis in HAFL-University of Bern, Switzerland) for the analysis of data collected during the implementation of this project, in order to prepare a final technical report. A national workshop is planned for the validation of the final technical report. The most important part of the last installment of ITTO funds will be directly paid (in tranches) to the consultancy team for the abovementioned activities.

**(11) 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)		

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).

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.

The ITTO Secretariat received the Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of the CRF(L)/3 Document, last year. Thus, upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed at its Fiftieth Session in December 2017. Soft copies of the abovementioned Completion Report and other documents, such as technical reports and technical papers, can be made available by the Secretariat upon written request.

**(12) 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)		

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 Fifty-first Session in December 2017. 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 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. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in September 2017, the project operational period had lasted 66 months instead of 30 initially designed by the implementing agency (FORIG).

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.

For information, 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 (refer to ITTO letter L.16-0065). The budget modification was subsequently approved by the ITTO Secretariat to formalize that budget reduction.

**II. Project Objective**

The project objective was to contribute to rural livelihood by improving benefits from forests established by local communities through the rehabilitation of degraded Forests Reserves and by improving landscapes. Specifically, it intended to develop adequate models and identify appropriate strategies and use them for the collaborative management of forests established by local communities through the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands, using the agroforestry modified taungya system (MTS). The aim was to enhance biodiversity conservation, while ensuring the provision of goods and services, in order to contribute to improving the livelihood of local communities.

### **III. Project Achievements and Outputs**

The project's implementation strategy was based on the Knowledge-Empowerment-Governance approach which led to the following main achievements:

- i) Management options, techniques, strategies and governance lessons for engaging local communities to restore degraded Forest Reserves have been developed. These have been achieved through capacity building of communities on seed collection; nursery establishment; tree planting; facilitating the inventory and registering the trees planted and farmers involved in the project implementation in the following sites:
  - Ntabene, Twumkrom and Abonsrakrom in the Pamu Berekum Forest Reserve in Dormaa District;
  - Nsugunsua in the Afrensu-Brohoma Forest Reserve, Offinso District; and
  - Olantan and Ahenkwa in the Southern Scarp Forest Reserve in Begoro District.
- ii) Over 180 farmers engaged in tree planting in the degraded Forest Reserves have their plots of forest plantation registered with Ghana Forestry Commission. Over 224 ha of pilot forest plantations have been established in project sites located in degraded Forest Reserves covered by this project. Over 47 different timber species and one exotic timber species have been used in the tree planting. Five different non-timber forest products (NTFP) species have been integrated in portions of the planted forest in order to ensure some short-term livelihood to local communities involved in the project implementation.
- iii) The benefit share agreements, for local community members involved in the project implementation, were prepared and handed over to the relevant authorities, including the Traditional Authority and Forestry Commission of Ghana (Forest Services Division, Plantation Development Office in Accra and the Plantation Office in Kumasi), for endorsement.
- iv) The economic value of the ecosystem services in and around the established plantations in the project areas have been estimated. This has been done through a detailed study that has been packaged in a detailed technical report.
- v) The main findings derived from the project implementation were presented in two international meetings held in 2015 (Sixth International Wildland Fire Conference held in South Korea and FAO Science Symposium on Climate held in Rome, Italy). In addition, these findings were described and explained in the following technical reports:
  - Land cover change of plantation established with local communities in degraded forest reserves in three districts, Ghana
  - Local knowledge on tree values and strategies for managing smallholder forest plantations in three reserves, Ghana
  - Economic Valuation of Ecosystem Services of Community Plantations in Degraded Forest Reserves of Tropical High Forest Zone of Ghana
  - Analysis of financial values of tree-level lumber in community forests plantation in two Forest Reserves of Ghana

### **IV. Outcomes and Impacts**

Sustaining the diversity of the tree species and the value of natural forests is a matter of increasing concern not only for Ghana but for the entire West Africa region. Farmers contributed valuable suggestions on strategies to manage forest plantations established in selected Forest Reserves. The main project outcomes and impacts can be summarized in the following table:

Period	Key Actions / Activities / Interventions	Benefits / Outcomes / Impacts / Results
Short-term (less than 12 months)	<p>Establishing a nursery to produce seedlings for reforestation activities with local communities</p> <p>Land preparation for agroforestry modified taungya system (MTS) mixing trees with food crops (maize, cassava, plantain banana, pepper, tomato, etc.).</p>	<p>Capacity building of local communities on establishing and managing a nursery for the production of forest seedlings.</p> <p>Temporary access to land in Forest Reserves facilitated for local community members involved in the project implementation. Food crops harvested by local communities for household consumption and as a contribution to their livelihood and food security.</p>
Mid-term (1 – 5 years)	<p>Land preparation for agroforestry modified taungya system (MTS) mixing trees with food crops (maize, cassava, plantain banana, pepper, tomato, etc.).</p> <p>Maintenance of agroforestry plots mixing food crops and forest trees, including bushfire prevention and management with key stakeholders, including local communities.</p> <p>Registration by the Forest Commission of Ghana of forest plots and local community members involved in establishing forest plots aiming to rehabilitate selected Forest Reserves in Ghana</p>	<p>Temporary access to land in Forest Reserves facilitated for local community members involved in the project implementation. Food crops harvested by local communities for household consumption and as a contribution to their livelihood and food security.</p> <p>Less bush fires in those parts of Forest Reserves where forest plots were established by local communities.</p> <p>Benefit sharing agreement endorsed/signed by the Forestry Commission of Ghana for community members involved in establishing forest plots contributing to rehabilitate Forest Reserves. Long-term benefit is secured by this agreement.</p>
Long-term (5 years +)	<p>Land preparation for agroforestry modified taungya system (MTS) mixing trees with food crops (maize, cassava, plantain banana, pepper, tomato, etc.).</p> <p>Maintenance of agroforestry plots mixing food crops and forest trees. Bushfire prevention and management with key stakeholders, including local communities, in addition to silvicultural treatments of those forest plots established for the rehabilitation of selected Forest Reserves in Ghana.</p> <p>Continuation of the registration, by Ghana Forest Commission, of forest plots and local community members involved in establishing those forest plots aiming to rehabilitate selected Forest Reserves in Ghana</p>	<p>Temporary access to land in Forest Reserves facilitated for local community members involved in the project implementation.</p> <p>Food crops harvested by local communities for household consumption and as a contribution to their livelihood and food security. Less bushfires in those parts of Forest Reserves where forest plots were established by local communities. Gradual increase of surface area rehabilitated in Forest Reserves with the involvement of local communities.</p> <p>Benefit sharing agreement endorsed/signed by the Forestry Commission of Ghana for community members involved in establishing forest plots contributing to rehabilitate Forest Reserves. Long-term benefit is secured by this agreement.</p>

Based on the survey conducted by the project implementing team, the motivation of local communities for their involvement in the project implementation for the rehabilitation of selected Forest Reserves in Ghana was sustained by the following incentives:

- Temporary land access in Forest Reserves for rehabilitation activities in a country (Ghana) where access to land is not easy for poor farmers;
- Food crops production for household consumption and contributing to the livelihood of local communities;

- Benefit sharing agreement endorsed by Ghana Forestry Commission in order to ensure and formalize the current and future shares of tree ownership for local community members involved in the rehabilitation of selected Forest Reserves in Ghana.

The abovementioned incentives have been the reason why more and more local community members have expressed their interest to be part of rehabilitation activities implemented in Forest Reserves of Ghana under the supervision of Ghana Forestry Commission and Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG).

The registration of forest plantations established by local communities, for benefit sharing has been done. In doing this, the following activities have been carried out. i) Mobilization and sensitization of target farmers in the target communities; ii) Record data (bio-data, photos, plots sizes and species planted, year of planting) of target farmers in the six (communities) in the three Forest Reserves covered during the project implementation; iii) Production of maps of the twelve plots of plantations established by the farmers under the FORIG/ITTO Degraded Phase II project in soft and hard copies; and iv) Prepare a composite report/document involving the three outputs and submitted to the national plantation office in Accra with copies at FORIG/ITTO project office. Over 180 farmers engaged in the forest plantation establishment, on pilot basis, have been assisted to register their plots of forest plantations with the Ghana Forestry Commission.

#### **V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability**

By virtue of proximity, communities depend on surrounding Forest Reserves for their livelihood. The partnership, between the local communities and Ghana Forestry Commission, was an appropriate arrangement in ensuring the gradual restoration and sustainable management of these degraded Forest Reserves, because local communities have been considered as part of the project identified problem.

The main lesson learned, in relation to the smooth project implementation, was dealing with the close collaboration with relevant stakeholders which led to realize most activities contributing to the following achievements: demarcation of plots in degraded Forest Reserves for farmers, seedlings production and distribution for tree planting, registration of the trees planted by farmers, and management options and capacity building of the local communities in the project area. The early consultation process ensuring a better understanding of the project objectives contributed to the smooth project implementation.

For the consolidation of main project outcomes, most relevant stakeholders involved in the project implementation made the following commitments:

- i) the District forest managers and their technical officers of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, will continue to work with the local communities in the project pilot sites for the implementation of the strategies and management options identified for sustainable management of the established forest plantations, including the registration of local community members and their trees planted for the gradual rehabilitation of degraded Forest Reserves in Ghana. The assurance of getting the benefit sharing agreement has raised the interest of more and more farmers in being involved in the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands and it could be the most important factor of motivation for local communities in sustaining the main project outcomes.
- ii) The District Assembly/Authority of project area is also to offer local communities with support both financial and logistics for their activities that include wildfire control, illegal timber harvest control and control of cattle grazing and destruction of the established forest plantation.
- iii) The Forestry Commission of Ghana and the technical officers are also to continue to support the project farmers and other communities with the planting and maintenance of the trees on degraded Forest Reserves. This support is to be related to the release of portions of lands in degraded Forest Reserves for selected farmers, in order to ensure their involvement in establishing forest plantations while contributing to the rehabilitation of Forest Reserves.
- iv) The executing agency (FORIG) will continue to use the project sites as a research site for long-term studies on forest carbon accounting; assessment and monitoring of land use changes, and forest resources modeling.

**(13) 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 Project Completion:	First extension until 31 December 2015 (NOLF.15-0004) Second extension until 31 December 2016 (NOLF.16-0067) Third extension until 31 January 2018 (NOLF.17-0029).		

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. However, the implementation of some activities has been delayed, so the project duration was extended until the end of January 2018.

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 the 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 for the years 2014 and 2015 were submitted. 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. The Executing Agency reviewed the reduction of the fourth installment based on the ITTO guide and it was approved by ITTO Secretariat in February 2017. After receipt of satisfactory project financial and cash flow statements, the reduced fourth installment was transferred in Oct 2017.

During the reporting period, project activities/tasks conducted were related to Output 1 (A reforestation awareness program is in operation for landowners and the wider community) when PNG FA celebrated the International Day of Forest (IDoF) with the theme "Forest and Energy" on the 21st March 2017. This is considered to be a wonderful occasion experienced by Officials of PNG FA and the stakeholders in their efforts fully collaborated very well in the execution of one of the project tasks given as - Conservation and Reforestation Awareness Campaign drive to communities/villages particularly within the Sogeri plateau project site of Central Province. Mr Tunou Sabuin, Managing Director of PNG FA stressed the importance of growing trees for the future which is the livelihood to the majority of the rural population in the country. Mr Sabuin also encouraged the landowners to apply best practices in managing their natural forest

resources to benefit them as well as the future generations.

The project is seeking synergies with the national reforestation initiative entitled: "Painim Graun Planim Diwai". As such, PNGFA is now tasked to plant up to 800,000 hectares by 2050 under the Medium-Term Development Plan (MTDP). It is expected that with an additional extension of the project duration up to the end of 2018, the Executing Agency will be completing the implementation of all project activities including the operation of small-scale reforestation enterprises as well as operation of a distribution system for agro-forestry stock and materials.

**(14) 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 is 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 Medihit catchment is located in Ulu Limbang Division, north Sarawak in a remote and hilly 35,400 ha area 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 Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

Output 1: Improvement in Community Forest Management

- Field investigation and report writing on socio-economic development was completed while 50% of the forest resources assessment work have been carried out;
- A timber resource survey with local community members, field assistants, porters and labourers was completed. But the development of two community forest resource management plans has been initiated with around 30% accomplishment. A replaced consultant has started to continue this activity;
- To identify High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) as SFM demonstration sites, a stakeholder workshop is in preparation to settle on the boundaries of the two proposed communities' use areas after collecting preliminary information of two HCVF such as location, size and condition of trees;

- Development of sustainable harvesting and processing techniques of identified NTFPs is underway; and
- Two co-management committees were formed and drafting two co-management agreements is in progress.

Output 2: Capacity of the Community on Development Enhanced

- Area of demonstration for fish raising has been identified at the Sungai Medihit. Fish feeding activity commenced; project target communities have learned about raising poultry and vegetable farming and they are now generating income from poultry and vegetable sales;
- For eco-tourism development, homestay at Kampung Long Napir renovated to improve the back entrance, toilet and bathroom facilities;
- Gravelled 7 km of road from Camp Kilo 0 to Long Napir (including construction of more than 1 km of road to Kampung Bahagia). A 1.5 km road connects Long Napir and Kampung Bahagia;
- Architectural plan for the construction of a multifunctional meeting hall has been completed but issue of designating a site is still in negotiation with villagers;
- Building a guesthouse for the community school is underway; and
- A total of 10 households have received a solar power system. The solar power system is working well, contributing to daily activities of the households.

The Project Steering Committee convened its second meeting and conducted a field visit in July 2017. The meeting discussed the need to speed up the implementation of delayed activities and to strengthen communications with the targeted communities. The meeting recommended the extension of the project duration until February 2018 to ensure successful completion of all activities with more active participation of community members.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	958,220
ITTO Budget:		US\$	496,290
Government of Japan:	US\$	490,067	
Government of USA:	US\$	6,223	
Regional Governments of Tumbes and Piura:		US\$	386,300
MDA:		US\$	75,630
Implementing Agency:	MDA		
Period of Approval:	Spring 2012		
Starting Date and Duration:	November 2014 / 24 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until November 2017 (NOLF.17-0020)		

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 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 was about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second disbursement of funds was transferred in December 2015 and the third in March 2017.

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 the financial impairment. Based on this, MDA decided to put the project on hold until March 2017 when ITTO funding recommenced with the transfer of the third instalment of funds (net of an agreed 10% reduction in the remaining balance to be paid to help deal with the financial impairment).

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 project is working to improve the standard of living of the population in mangrove ecosystem areas in the regions of Tumbes and Piura. More specifically, it is increasing 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 hydro-biological resources) in mangrove forests; and (v) Promoting financial mechanisms to contribute to the sustainability of mangrove forests.

Since the Fiftieth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report submitted in August 2017, the project has recommenced activities under a revised 2017 work plan within the framework of the four (04) main outputs of the overall project; (1) Legal competencies implemented in regional and local governments for mangrove conservation, (2) Management and forest management to preserve the mangrove ecosystem improved, (3) Strategies for financial sustainability of mangroves defined and in process of implementation and (4) project management.

In the first quarter (February to April) of the project restart activities have been developed to establish meetings and coordination with public and private institutions and key local actors, with the aim of establishing agreements for the operation of the project in 2017. The main partners are the National Service of Natural Protected Areas in the region of Tumbes; the Headquarters of the National Sanctuary Los Mangos de Tumbes, and the Unified Headquarters of the National Park Cerros de Amotape and the National Reserve of Tumbes.

The activities undertaken in 2017 are framed in ensuring the management of the mangrove ecosystem in the wider context of the Northwest Biosphere Reserve Amotape-Manglares, part of the Regional System of Conservation of the Regional Government of Tumbes and recently recognized by UNESCO and the Biosphere Reserve Bosques de Paz Biosphere between Peru and Ecuador. The project has continued providing training to public officials and key local actors to strengthen the institutions of local governments to understand the importance of this ecosystem and the mechanisms for its conservation.

Another issue that is being addressed by the project is the forest management of the mangrove ecosystem through the establishment of new conservation areas or conservation modalities, as well as the characterization and delimitation of this ecosystem in the regions of Tumbes and Piura, with the participation of regional and local governments. Work has also been carried out on financial sustainability strategies, elaborating business plans and projects for the benefit of the organizations that use the mangrove resources, seeking their financing in local and regional governments through relevant laws and national programs.

Activities on organizational strengthening, training in the management of mangrove resources, identification and elaboration of financial sustainability mechanisms and management of natural resources of the mangrove ecosystem have commenced.

During the period to August 2017, results achieved include the following:

- Creation of the "Manglares de Chulliyache" Environmental Conservation Area (ECA), in the province of Sechura, Region of Piura, as a new conservation area, with an area of 1,595.38 ha., The creation of

the ECA is established by Municipal Ordinance, with the objective of protecting and conserving the ecosystem and its existing biodiversity, as well as to realize the sustainable use of its resources.

- Elaboration of business plans for local organizations that use the mangrove ecosystem.
- Elaboration of projects for the participatory budget of the regional government in the framework of the strengthening of the proposal for the Tumbes-Bahía Puerto Pizarro Delta Mangrove Environmental Conservation Area and the National Agricultural Innovation Program, with associations of the buffer zone of the National Park hills of Amotape in the framework of the strengthening of the Biosphere Reserve.
- Technical assistance for the preparation of a public investment project to strengthen the ECA Manglares del Estero la Chepa -Corrales.
- Presentation of the technical and financial proposal for the application of the Management Agreement for the National Sanctuary of the Manglares de Tumbes by the Manglares Consortium of Northwest Peru, made up of 6 organizations that use the area. The whole process is being assisted by the project as part of the strengthening of grassroots organizations.
- Mapping of the mangrove ecosystem, as part of the ecosystem's forest management and in coordination with the forest authority so that resulting maps are part of the Forestry Zonation of the region.
- Training activities in the management of mangrove resources have been initiated with the participation of educational centers in the regions of Tumbes and Piura.

Another of the actions being carried out by the project is to promote the strengthening of the Coordination Committee of the Northwest Biosphere Reserve, Amotapes-Manglares. In 2016 the Tumbes mangrove ecosystem was included as part of the Biosphere Reserve. In the first semester of 2017, meetings and coordination were undertaken with the institutions that make up the Coordination Committee of the Biosphere Reserve.

The project is now back on track and it is expected to be successfully completed in 2018. A project steering committee meeting and monitoring mission is scheduled in December 2017. The full progress report for this project is available on request from the Secretariat (Spanish only).

#### **(16) 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:	WWF – PANAMA OFFICE
Period of Approval:	Spring 2012
Starting Date and Duration:	December 2014 / 24 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until December 2017 (NOLF.17-0066)

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 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 was about to begin, and the approval of the aforementioned by the Secretariat. The second and third disbursements of funds were respectively sent in September 2015 and April 2016. The fourth and last disbursement of funds in the amount of US\$ 70,000.00 was delayed. 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 the financial impairment. Based on this,

WWF Panama decided to continue with selected activities of the project using counterpart funds and support from other donors until March 2017 when ITTO funding recommenced with the transfer of the fourth and final instalment of funds (net of an agreed 17% reduction in the remaining balance to be paid to help deal with the financial impairment).

This project is 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 Fiftieth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project’s most recent progress report submitted in August 2017 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish), 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 have been 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 (100% 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 (100% 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 developed and promoted among authorities, forest industries and communities (100% 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 and improved (100% progress);
- The obstacles blocking full adoption of the forest regency system were studied and an action plan to eliminate the barriers was developed (100% progress);
- A new forest regency regulation has been developed (100% progress);

- Forest activities are being characterized by operation size so as to identify fast-track mechanisms for the issuing of harvesting permits(100% 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 (100% 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 and 2016 logging seasons in Darien (100% progress); and
- Training of personnel in charge of checkpoints is ongoing and will continue after project completion (100% 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 approved by the Ministry of Environment (100% progress); and
- A cross-sectoral forest governance agreement specifying mechanisms, roles and commitments for illegal forest trade prevention and control for each forest chain stakeholder has been finalized and 3 purchasing policies/agreements /programs/plans finalized between organized producers and the local forest industry for the use of timber from sustainably managed forests (100% progress).

In summary, the project has successfully completed all activities and is expected to submit its final report and audited financial statement prior to the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee. If it does so and these reports are judged satisfactory, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(17) 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 Fifth Session of the Committee in November 2016, implementation of main project activities is summarized as follows:

- Revised the concept note for a regional workshop on Transboundary Conservation Area (TBCA) involving ASEAN countries with a plan to organize it in early March 2018 in Pontianak, Indonesia. Preparatory work for the workshop is underway;
- A series of consultation meetings between BKNP, community leaders and local governments on conservation and livelihood issues organized. Community leaders (temenggungs) were tasked to develop and submit their work programs to BKNP but no progress made due to limited capacity. The planning task was transferred to NGOs, Universities, and others (17 in total) to represent local communities and local governments with a partnership agreement;
- Potential NTFPs have been identified. These include: bamboo, tengkawang, aren, gaharu, bemban, pepper, vegetables, fish, etc. Main constraints identified include: lack of skills, sources of energy and capital, lack of market information, and poor infrastructure. Development of *tagang* system at 2 sites has been provided; organization of a training on bamboo shoot planting and processing is underway;
- Biogas production equipment and facilities installed in June 2015 have revitalized since 2017 after solving operational and institutional problems over one year. They are currently running well with stable biogas supply. The biogas program was formally launched on 20 July 2017 and it was signified by Dayak customary ritual;
- Promoting village ecotourism is continued with development of partnerships. Wooden bridge connecting lake harbour with guest house has been fully repaired. Involvement of women in ecotourism development has been encouraged with training in woven products; and
- A community patrolling unit in Eastern part of BKNP was formally established and it is in place with interesting outcomes after the organization of two community patrol trainings in Western (40 trainees) and Eastern (34 trainees) parts of BKNP. The project helped procure patrolling facilities (e.g., speedboat, life vest, etc.) to support mobilization of forest patrol squad.

The implementation of many of the project activities is progressing as planned. However, the Executing Agency is preparing a 6-month extension without additional funds in order to complete execution of all activities and final reporting.

**(18) 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
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First extension until 31 October 2017 (NOLF.17-0089)

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 training 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 Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

Output 1: Buffer zone for integrated management developed

- The proposed extensions of PTNP were named separately in Long Repun N.P. (8,367 ha), Batu Iran NP (1,128 ha) and Batu Buli NP (1,128 ha). However, progress had been hampered by delays to ascertain the land status and community objection to their constitution.

Output 2: Baseline surveys of buffer zone resources and impacts of logging carried out and results published

- Baseline studies on forest ecology, flora and NTFP had been completed. The major ecosystems comprising logged-over mixed dipterocarp forest, kerangas forest, riparian forest and alluvial forest were described and all recorded plant species identified, totalling 328 species;
- Faunal surveys recorded 19 species of reptiles and amphibians, 35 species of birds, and more than 31 species of mammals. A total of 22 species of mammals and birds are protected under the Wild Life Protection Ordinance (1998).
- A technical report will be published in one volume by October. It would have the following contents: i) History of Kelabit and Penan settlements, ii) Flora: Forest ecosystems and NTFP; iii) Fauna: Mammals, birds, frogs and plant pests, iv) Community development activities, and v) Guidelines for communal forests;
- Studying the need for a communal forest for each of the Penan villages located inside the buffer zone is near completion. Three communal forests (CFs) were proposed after reviewing the resources and the people's needs. The CFs were for Ba' Medamot (296 ha), Long Lobang (133 ha located inside PTNP), and one to be shared by Ba' Tik A and B (355 ha). These proposed CFs are mostly un-logged and located within timber licenses.

Output 3: Training to develop livelihood improvement skills conducted

- Training on buffer zone management, farming, handicraft and ecotourism was fully completed. Management of buffer zone will be carried out by the responsibilities of Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Forestry Corporation and the new National Parks and Wildlife Department, with support from local Penan individuals with good local knowledge and leadership skill;
- For the development of NTFP resources, fruit trees and sago palm (*Metroxylon* sp.) were chosen by the communities for which 1,000 fruit seedlings and sago palm suckers were acquired and delivered to the four villages. On-farm training on planting and maintenance was conducted;
- For establishment and management of tagang, a study tour on tagang was organized to Long Lobang in Lawas in May 2015. Only Long Lobang implemented as other villages were undecided; and
- Assistance is on-going for the application of birth certificates and identity documents for the Penan and other indigenous communities living in the area (60%). The total applicants were 61, but only 29 were successful, while the remaining 32 received no news from the National Registration Department (NRD).

The Project Steering Committee held in July 2017 recommended an extension of the project duration until October 2017 without additional funds and the requested extension was subsequently approved by the ITTO Secretariat to allow the Executing Agency to fully complete project activities and to prepare quality technical reports.

**(19) 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 the appointment of project personnel and preparation of an inception report with 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 a 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 the local community; and (iii) formulated an integrated policy on Cempaka conservation.

Since the Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Experiments on appropriate techniques for Cempaka seed collection, storage and germination are underway with the appointment of qualified experts. Normal timing of Cempaka seed harvesting is from April to June but in this year it is expected that it would be occurred from August to December due to a long dry season of last year;
- Six small-scale nurseries at the village have been established and managed by local communities with the support of an experienced NGO;
- Establishment of a 30 ha demonstration site for Cempaka plantations for long-term research and training of local communities is underway with research on growing stock and distribution of Cempaka species; and
- The second meeting of the Project Steering Committee was organized at the Manado Forest Research Institute in March 2017. It was attended by DG of Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), and representatives from local governments. The meeting recommended developing a draft strategy and action plan for Cempaka conservation and development in collaboration with key stakeholders. The Executing Agency is planning to organize a provincial workshop on cempaka conservation and utilization with the establishment of a stakeholder forum at the provincial level.

**(20) 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 24-month project was approved under Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48<sup>th</sup> 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).

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.

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of the CRF(L)/3 Document, last year. Therefore, upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed at its Fifty-first Session in December 2017.

**(21) 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

Approved Revised Date of  
Project Completion:

Extension until December 2017 (NOLF.17-0065)

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 shortly thereafter. The project's first Steering Committee meeting was held in San Marcos, Guatemala in early September 2014, the second at Tapachula, Mexico the following year and a third in the Tacaná reserve area in Guatemala in July 2017. All meetings benefited from 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 (EA) was informed by the ITTO Secretariat that all installments of funds to ITTO projects were to be suspended until further notice due to the financial impairment. Based on this, the Executing Agency decided to put the project implementation on hold and informed the ITTO Secretariat of its intention to resume the project activities as soon as the remaining installments of ITTO funds could be released. ITTO informed the EA that it was ready to recommence funding in March 2017 and following efforts to reconvene the project team and prepare a revised work plan and budget, work recommenced in June 2017 after the combined third and final fourth disbursements of funds were sent, net of a 10% reduction to help in dealing with the financial impairment.

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. This project encompasses 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 Fiftieth session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report submitted in September 2017 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish), 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 have produced 42,473 tree seedlings of native species for the restoration areas, and
- Several models of community forest restoration 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 roundtables representing Guatemala and Mexico, of which 8 were selected for implementation and the development of specific investment plans. These include investments in ecotourism, fish ponds 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 to 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. Initially the volcanic cone was classified as a "Permanent Prohibition Zone" with no authorized interventions, but CONAP recently approved another more flexible framework and this study has been 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.

In summary, the project has successfully completed most activities or is expected to do so prior to the end of 2017. The project may submit its final report and audited financial statement prior to the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee; if it does so and these reports are judged satisfactory, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(22) 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:	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 frameworks. 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 Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Conducted a community workshop on the importance of coastal and mangrove wetland in Narocake on 20-24 March 2017. Training workshops to assist local communities to adopt and implement identified livelihood options were conducted for 4 villages of the Tailevu Province with the establishment of villages nurseries. Training for 2 Rewa villages is expected to be completed by the end of 2017;
- Collected traditional knowledge and documented skills sets needed for harvest and preservation of key food/timber sources from coastal and wetland mangrove ecosystems. Development of technical guidelines for mangrove restoration and management is underway with the collaborating partner, the South Pacific Community;
- The Project Coordinator attended the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems in Bali, Indonesia from 18-21 April 2017. The work implemented for the ITTO Project was demonstrated through the poster presentation during this conference;
- The Ministry marked International Day of Forests on 21st March 2107 with the theme of “*Forests & Energy*”. An article on the ITTO Project was published in the local newspaper; Fiji Sun for awareness purpose to the public; and
- There has been an increase of FJ\$15,000 in the operational budget for the project provided by the government for the new financial year (August 2017 to July 2018). This supplements for the reduction of the ITTO project budget.

The project faces challenges regarding land tenure issues especially during the planting phase. This becomes time-consuming for the project team but the matter resolves through village meetings where the villagers mutually agree for the area to be planted for rehabilitation and restoration purposes.

**(23) 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:	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, andalás, 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 Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Collection and updating data and information on the distribution, population and conservation status of the selected species is underway. Collected data include 1) biological information: number of target trees (population potency), stand structure (seedling, sapling, pole, and tree), tree's size, species association, regeneration condition, etc.; and 2) ecological information: location (administratively, geologically and forest zone), micro climate, soil type and ph at the time of observation;
- Observation of genetic diversity and vulnerability of the selected species is underway. DNA from 3 species (andalás, kulim, and taxus) had been already extracted and ready for further stages of analysis. A total of 45 samples andalás, 74 samples of kulim, 64 of taxus and 41 of giam (grand total 214 samples) were analyzed for their DNA in the Centre for Forest Biotechnology and Tree Improvement (CFBTI) in Yogyakarta;
- Analysis for economic and utilization potential and chemical substances of *Taxus sumatrana* is being carried out. A poster and paper on extraction and phytochemistry of *T. sumatrana* was presented in IUFRO-INAFOR joint International Conference on 24-27 July 2017 in Yogyakarta;
- Exploring potential seed sources for the selected species is underway. For the requirements for certification of a seed source, two species each from their respective habitat were selected to be assigned for the certification. These are kulim (*Schorodocarpus borneensis*) at Imbo Mutui Traditional Forest in Kampar Regency, Riau Province and giam (*Cotylelobium melanoxyton*) at Guguk Traditional Forest in Merangin Regency, Jambi Province; and
- Wildlings and other vegetative materials are growing in nurseries. Collected wildlings and seeds of taxus are growing at FRI in North Sumatra; merbau Sumatra are growing at FRI in South Sumatra and FRI in Kuok; and kulim, giam and andalás are growing at FRI in Kuok.

**(24) 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\$	697,635.50
ITTO Budget:		US\$	440,873.00
Government of Japan:	US\$	440,873.00	
CALMECAC:		US\$	256,762.50

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

Period of Approval: Rev.2: approved in Spring 2014  
Rev.3: approved in Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: October 2017 / 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 and was released by the donor in early 2017 once the financial impairment issue was resolved. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed and finalized in September 2017 and the Executing Agency had just completed submission of all required documentation to allow project implementation to commence at the time of preparing this document.

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 plan 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.

**(25) 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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 ITTO budget of this project was reduced from US\$149,408.00 to US\$141,396.00 [referring to Decision 6(LII) of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council and subsequent requirements], as it was impacted by the financial impairment.

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 Fiftieth 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:

- A total number of 70 persons (among them two thirds were 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 villages of Sokoradjan and Koffikro, Dimbokro District;
- A total number of 128 persons (with two third of women) had been trained by experts from SODEFOR on the techniques regarding the establishment, maintenance and protection of forest plantations, in the village of Troumambo, Dimbokro District;
- Subsequent to the abovementioned training sessions, two nurseries were established and managed in Sokoradjan and Koffikro Villages, near Nzi River, where a total number 29,400 seedlings had been produced for the rehabilitation of degraded forest lands in the Gazetted Forests of Ahua;
- Around 50 ha had been planted by the Association MALEBI, with the participation of local communities, as contribution for the gradual rehabilitation of the Ahua Gazetted Forest, using the following species: *Tectona grandis*, *Triplochiton scleroxylon*, and *Cassia siamea*. These tree species had been mixed with food crops (maize, yam, cassava, egg-plant, etc.)

**(26) 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:	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 Fiftieth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- A M&E specialist was recruited as a member of the project management team to improve stakeholder understanding and knowledge of REDD+. Collaboration with local community forestry groups to identify potential plantation sites is underway;
- The 3rd meeting of the Project Technical Committee was held on 9 February 2017 at the Forest and Wildlife Research and Development Institute (IRD). It reviewed internally the implementation of project activities with several recommendations including conducting internal monitoring of the project in a regular way with measurable indicators;
- Research on REDD+ in the Tumring Forest in Kampong Thom province is underway with the engagement of a consultant in order to develop a default provincial reference emission level for Kampong Thom province;
- For the improvement of livelihoods of target communities, the production and distribution of seedlings of fast growing tree species and fruit trees have been initiated. The project team collaborated with Tumring Forestry Administration Triage on production of seedlings through a nursery located about 8 Km from Tumring town with the capacity of producing about 50,000 seedlings per year; and
- The 2nd meeting of the Project Steering Committee was held on 15 August 2017 with a workshop on REDD+. In the workshop, representatives from the national REDD+ Working Group and REDD+ projects in Oddar Meanchey, Seima, and Southern Cardamom Mountains as well as experts from UNDP and JICA shared their experiences in promoting REDD+ in the country. Its recommendations include increasing more efforts of the project team to synergize the implementation of project activities with existing technical guidelines developed by other REDD+ projects/initiatives in the country.

**(27) 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\$	988,886
ITTO Budget:		US\$	437,478
Government of Japan:	US\$	437,478	
AIDER:		US\$	551,408

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

Period of Approval: Rev.2: approved in Autumn 2014  
Rev.3: approved in Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: May 2017 / 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 agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in April 2017 after release of project funds by the donor following resolution of the financial impairment. The Executing Agency completed submission of all required documentation in May 2017 to allow the first disbursement of funds to be sent and project implementation to commence.

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 carried out in the first months of implementation include the recruitment of the project team, analysis of the forest regulatory framework, and introductory technical and administrative capacity building. Work on 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 was just getting underway at the time of preparing this report. A project steering committee meeting and field monitoring visit will take place in December 2017. The latest progress report submitted by the Executing Agency (through ITTO's online monitoring system) is available from the Secretariat in Spanish.

**(28) 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\$	659,131
ITTO Budget:		US\$	541,031
Government of Japan:	US\$	541,031	
Counterpart (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: April 2017 / 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 was considered as signed by all parties on 27 March 2017. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 04 April 2017 in order to start the project implementation. The ITTO budget of this project was not impacted by the financial impairment issue.

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.

Since the Fiftieth 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:

- The inception workshop took place in the City of Ouidah (Benin) and gathered all relevant stakeholders in order to ensure a common understanding of the project objectives by all relevant stakeholders during its implementation. This inception workshop was also attended by a representative of the Embassy of Japan (as donor country) in Benin.
- The project executing agency continued the sensitization campaign, which started with the abovementioned inception workshop, on the roles and importance of sacred forests in Benin;
- Local entities (associations, cooperatives, local NGO) have been identified for their involvement in the implementation of some project activities in the area covered by this project;

- The vehicle, motorbikes and other equipment and materials required for the implementation of this project had been purchased after getting the no-objection of the ITTO Secretariat.
- Local Management Committee for each sacred forest was put in place for the need to provide support to the executing agency for the implementation of field activities in Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin.

## B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

### (1) PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar - Phase I Stage 1

#### Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	153,900
ITTO Budget:		US\$	140,000
Government of USA:	US\$	100,000	
Government of Korea:		40,000	
Government of Myanmar:		US\$	13,900
Implementing Agency:	Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, 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 Stage 1 - 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 and Stage 1 of Phase I of the project was financed.

The Taninthayi (Tenasserim) Mountain Range, located 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. 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 to strengthen national capacity and resources for effective conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar. The activities of Stage 1 of Phase I include institutional capacity building of Myanmar for biodiversity conservation while Stage 2 of Phase I will be focusing on transboundary biodiversity conservation activities in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range in collaboration with Thai partners. The expected outputs include: i) enhanced capacity of the Forest Research Institute to design and implement biodiversity conservation, monitoring and research programmes in the Taninthayi Range; and ii) establishment of initial institutional mechanisms for the transboundary biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range.

A review of the draft project agreement by the country's concerned attorney authority has been ongoing and is expected to be completed soon. Commencing implementation of the project is expected in January 2018.

**(2) PD 764/14 Rev.3 (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\$	668,313
ITTO Budget:		US\$	606,313
Government of Japan:	US\$	606,313	
Government of PNG:		US\$	62,000
Implementing Agency:	Papua New Guinea Forest Authority		
Period of Approval:	Rev.1 approval: Autumn 2014 Rev.2 approval: Autumn 2016 Rev.3 approval: March 2017		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months		

This project was approved in the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle and the project agreement for regulating project implementation has been consulted with the Implementing Agency after ITTO suspension period of payments to all projects from June to December 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 community forest management (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.

A review of the draft project agreement by the country's concerned attorney authority has been ongoing and is expected to be completed soon. Commencing implementation of the project is expected in earlier 2018.

**(3) PD 765/14 Rev.4 (F) Development of a Forest Landscape Restoration Program for Guatemala Based on ITTO Guidelines - Phase I**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	358,180
ITTO Budget:		US\$	250,000
CBD:	US\$	100,000	
Government of USA:	US\$	150,000	
FCG		US\$	108,180

Implementing Agency:	FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)
Period of Approval:	Rev.2: approved in Spring 2015 Rev.3: approved in Spring 2017 Rev.4: pending approval in Fall 2017
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and partial financing was pledged at the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> ITTC Sessions in 2015 and 2016. Following revision of the proposal to take account of the partial funding available, INAB decided that it wished to oversee the project but not to act as the Executing Agency (EA), and it nominated FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) as the new EA. The project document was therefore revised a final time and was pending approval through ITTO's online no-objection procedure at the time of preparing this document. It is expected that the revised project will be approved and the project agreement signed so that implementation can commence before the end of 2017.

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.

This project will undertake forest landscape restoration actions in 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".

**(4) PD 777/15 Rev.3 (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\$	643,616
ITTO Budget:		US\$	515,590
Government of Japan:	US\$	515,590	
Government of Indonesia:		US\$	128,026

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: Rev.1 approved in October 2015  
Rev.2 approved in April 2016.  
Rev.3 approved in March 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project was approved in the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle and the project agreement for regulating project implementation has been consulted with the Implementing Agency after ITTO suspension period of payments to all projects from June to December 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.

A review of the draft project agreement by Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been ongoing and is expected to be completed soon. Commencing implementation of the project is expected in earlier 2018.

### C. PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

**(1) 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)**

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. This project was revived in April 2016 in order to avoid it becoming sunset after the 20-month validity period.

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. In the final stage of that project, people 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 socio-economic 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.

**(2) 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 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.

**(3) 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

In view of the challenge of strengthening the enabling conditions for sustainable sandalwood resource in east Nusa Tenggara province, Indonesia, the project aims to strengthen the policy framework on sandalwood management for the effective and full participation of local communities in maintaining sandalwood resource. Both the wood and the oil produce a distinctive fragrance that has been highly valued for centuries. The project will focus on sustainable sandalwood plantation development and management on private/community lands with effective participation of local communities 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; (2) improved capacity of the local communities on the 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.

**(4) PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar Phase I Stage 2**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	487,762
ITTO Budget:	US\$	459,962
Government of Myanmar:	US\$	27,800

Implementing Agency: Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, 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 Stage 2 - 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 and Stage 2 of Phase I is waiting for financing.

The Taninthayi (Tenasserim) Mountain Range, located 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, Kitt's hog-nosed bat, equal in mass to a large bumblebee, resides in the limestone caves of this eco-region. However, 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 to strengthen national capacity and resources for 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.

**(5) 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

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 project aims to contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of peat swamp forest 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 project outputs are: i) Restoration and rehabilitation of degraded and deforested PSF in Sumatra increased; ii) Viable schemes to accelerate restoration and rehabilitation developed; and iii) Widespread initiatives on restoration and rehabilitation activities promoted.

**(6) 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

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 the 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 project 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.

**(7) PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Ebony 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

Ebony 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 Ebony species while its specific objective is to initiate conservation efforts for Ebony species with the 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 Ebony stands in Sulawesi. Silvicultural treatments will include space arrangements of associated species to facilitate Ebony growth. The expected outputs of the project are: i) improved programs on genetic conservation of ebony species; ii) development of

Eboni plantations with the engagement of local stakeholders; iii) increased involvement of local communities in Eboni conservation; and iv) improved use of close substitutes for Eboni timber in practical applications.

**(8) 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.

**(9) 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, Ofram, 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.

**(10) 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.

Outputs expected at project completion will be 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.

**(11) PD 812/16 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Community-Level Forest Landscape Planning, Diversification, Restoration and Protection to Reduce Forest Degradation and Improve Biodiversity and Local Livelihoods (Ghana)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	476,415
ITTO Budget:	US\$	445,715
Government of Ghana / EA:	US\$	30,700 (in kind)

Implementing Agency: FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF GHANA (FORIG)

Period of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved in August 2017 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 53<sup>rd</sup> session of the Council. It could start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution is made 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.

Ghana has adopted the 2020 target for forest restoration, to be reached by increasing the area of forest and tree cover through afforestation, reforestation and agro-forestry development. The aim is to restore forest goods, services, and processes in forest lands to regain ecological integrity and enhance human well-being. As a contribution toward the target and aims, this project will be implementing community-based forest planning and restoration programmes within a landscape context.

The overall objective will be to promote community-level forest landscape planning, restoration and protection to reduce forest degradation and increase biodiversity while improving local people's livelihoods. It specifically intends to reduce the degradation of community forest landscape resulting from wildfires and destructive forest-based livelihood activities while increasing local communities livelihood options.

Outputs expected at project completion will be as follows: (i) Land use programmes promoting landscape-level forest restoration together with protection measures introduced; (ii) Targeted programmes for improving land uses / alternative livelihoods developed; (iii) The organizational and technical capacities of local communities and the municipal assembly enhanced to engage in integrated landscape restoration and fire management.

**(12) 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.

**(13) 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 overall objective of the project is to promote the interest of local stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable development of kemenyan (*Styrax spp.*) is an incense tree species commonly grown in North Sumatra which has a high potential of improving livelihoods of local communities with enhanced conservation and management of its resource and processing techniques. Its specific objective is to develop and 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.

**(14) PD 836/17 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Mondulkiri Provinces of Cambodia**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	595,951
ITTO Budget:	US\$	514,651
Government of Cambodia :	US\$	81,300

Implementing Agency: FOREST ADMINISTRATION OF CAMBODIA

Session of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

In its efforts to promote SFM and alleviate poverty, Cambodia is currently actively promoting the community forestry programme (CFP) to provide access and tenure for local communities to sustainably and efficiently utilize designated forest resources. This programme, however, has been progressing in a sluggish manner due to weak operational capacity and quality management of approved community forest programmes is critical to the success of CFP.

The proposed project aims to accelerate development of community forestry and increase its contribution to livelihoods of the local communities and to promotion of SFM in Cambodia. Its specific objective is to enhance the capacity of local communities and Forest Administration to effectively implement CFP in Kratie and Mondulkiri provinces among the richest regions with forest resource and the highest deforestation rate at the same time. The expected outputs of the project are: i) enhanced capacity of local communities and forest administration in forest management planning, ii) capacity of local communities to operationalize approved forest management plans promoted, and iii) capacity of Forest Administration in monitoring and reporting of forest operations by individual Community Forestry Management Units (CFMUs) elevated.

**(15) PD 853/17 Rev.1 (F) Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	813,781
ITTO Budget:	US\$	441,045
Government of Peru :	US\$	372,736

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERFOR) OF  
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION  
(MINAGRI)

Session of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

Inadequate and illegal use of fire and the lack of awareness about its negative effects on the environment and human health are causing major forest fires, leading to a loss of large forest areas and the disturbance of countless natural processes. In Peru, and particularly in the departments of Cajamarca, Pasco, Junin and Cusco, this problem is aggravated in communities with an ancestral tradition of burning practices to attract rain or as a technique to clear stubble vegetation left behind by agricultural activities. This results in a high incidence of wildfires in natural forests, other wild vegetation formations and forest plantations.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of forest ecosystems and other wild vegetation threatened by forest fires, while its specific objective is to reduce the occurrence of forest fires through capacity strengthening in forest fire prevention and response aimed at local communities and local authorities. Expected project outputs include: best forest and agricultural waste practices; public and private institutions effectively managing forest fire prevention and response protocols; efficient forest fire monitoring system; and population trained on forest fire impacts. In order to achieve these outputs, the project will raise awareness among agricultural producers regarding best forest and agricultural waste management practices, will strengthen social organizations and will ensure coordination between public and private institutions. In addition, the project will coordinate with institutions equipped with early-warning and information systems and will disseminate forest-related regulations.

**(16) PD 861/17 Rev.1 (F) Carbon Storage in Timber Producing Forests as a Value Criterion in Rural Communities in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	748,946
ITTO Budget:	US\$	649,386
Government of Mexico :	US\$	99,560

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOREST, AGRICULTURAL AND  
LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (INIFAP)

Session of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project will contribute to scientific and technical knowledge on carbon storage in tropical forests as a value criterion for rural timber producer communities; furthermore, it will expand the information used for government decisions on forest sustainability policy in Mexico. Therefore, the main objective of the project is to develop a method to generate actual carbon storage figures for broadleaved forests in the Yucatán Peninsula, so that each community has a specific overview of the conditions on their lands, and of the intrinsic value of the forest. This will make it possible to measure stored carbon losses or gains, as a criterion for PES validation in the region. Significantly, this region is the largest carbon sink in the country, but it is also affected by considerable rates of deforestation resulting from forest fires caused mainly by human action. The project will work under a participatory and inclusive approach, with respect to the communities of this region. This, in turn, will enhance the sustainability objectives shared by ITTO, REDD+, PECC and the National Development Plan of Mexico.

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

- (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 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
- (3) 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
- (4) PD 772/15 Rev.1 (F) Improved Application of Growth and Yield Models to Forest Management Planning in the Amazon Basin (Brazil)
- (5) 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)
- (6) 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)
- (7) PD 775/15 Rev.2 (F) Management and Restoration of the Forest Landscape in San Marcos, Guatemala and Chiapas, Mexico
- (8) 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)
- (9) PD 785/15 Rev.1 (F) Phytosanitary Management of Commercial Forest Plantations in the Moist Tropics (Mexico)
- (10) PD 794/15 Rev.1 (F) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Mangrove Forest Resources in the Province of El Oro, Southern Ecuador

#### **PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

There is no approved pre-project is currently under implementation and 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 two (2) 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**

None.

**B. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT**

None.

**C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING**

**(1) 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.

**(2) 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 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 selected 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 conserving rare, endemic and threatened species of Western Ghats, India by promoting agro-forestry and reforestation of degraded lands.

**(3) PPD 186/16 Rev.2 (F) Establishment of Enabling Conditions for the Restoration and Sustainable Development of Forests in the Southern Area of the Sierra De Lacandon National Park, Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	61,964
ITTO Budget:	US\$	48,261
Government of Guatemala:	US\$	13,703

Implementing Agency: FUNDACIÓN DEFENSORES DE LA NATURALEZA (FDN)

Period of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 6 months

The objective of the pre-project is to design a full project proposal for forest restoration, sustainable use and production development in the Buffer Zone of the Maya Biosphere Reserve in the southern area of Sierra del Lacandon National Park. This will be facilitated with the development of a participatory strategy for the proposed proposal. The project development is in line with the recent law approved by the Congress of the Republic of Guatemala (Decree No. 2-2015 – “Law to promote the establishment, restoration, rehabilitation, management, production and protection of forests in Guatemala”, known as the “PROBOSQUE Law”) allowing a 30-year extension of a successful forest incentives programme as well as the National Forest Restoration Strategy which incorporates the forest landscape restoration component as part of public policy guidelines for the Guatemalan forest sector.

**(4) PPD 189/17 Rev.1 (F) Development of A Full Project Proposal to Generate Tools to Ensure the Establishment of Timber Forest Species Through Natural Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	146,850
ITTO Budget:	US\$	87,490
Government of Peru:	US\$	59 360

Implementing Agency: National Agrarian University of La Molina (UNALM) in collaboration with National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI)

Period of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 8 months

This pre-project seeks to validate a methodology to assess and monitor the regeneration and phenology of commercial species so as to develop a full project proposal aiming at establishing robust monitoring systems of 4 significant forest species in the 3 major timber regions of the country. It will build on UNALM's long-term strategy and research to provide tools and outcomes to remove CITES-listed species from the CITES Appendices (mahogany and cedar). The pre-project is expected at the national level to

ensure that the tools developed will be useful to users in their search for sustainable forest management and to authorities in their development of monitoring, verification and supervision protocols

**D. PRE-PROJECTS COMING UNDER THE SUNSET PROVISIONS SINCE THE LAST SESSION**

- (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)

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