



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL  
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON  
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CRF(LI)/5  
2 December 2017

ENGLISH ONLY

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

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



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

The Fifty-first Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management (CRF) was opened on 28 November 2017 by Ms. Marjukka Mähönen (Finland), Chairperson of the CRF. The CRF Session adopted the provisional agenda as contained in Document CRF(LI)/1.

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

The Provisional Agenda for the CRF, as contained in Document CRF(LI)/1, was duly adopted. To expedite proceedings, the Agenda items 4 and 6 were considered at the Joint Session of the Committees convened on 29 November in order to ensure that all agenda items are covered within the limited time available to the Committee. The Chairperson of the CRF proposed to organize the Session in the following order: Item 3, Item 5, Item 9, Item 7, Item 8, Item 10, Item 11, Item 12, Item 13, Item 14, Item 15 and Item 16. The list of participants is presented in Document ITTC(LIII)/Info.2.

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

The Committee admitted the Observers listed in Document ITTC(LIII)/Info.3 Rev.1, as approved by the Council.

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

The Joint Session of All Committees considered the report of the Expert Panel for Technical Appraisal of Project Proposals presented by its panel member, Mr. Jobst-Michael Schroeder (Germany), as contained in document ITTC/EP-52.

In its general findings and recommendations, as derived from the appraisal of 46 proposals, the Fifty-second Panel noted that the quality of the proposals was variable, which is reflected by the fact that: twelve proposals (26% of the total) received a category 4, indicating that the Expert Panel does not commend these proposals to the Committee for approval as they require complete reformulation; nineteen proposals (two pre-projects and seventeen projects or 41% of the total) will be sent back to proponents for essential revisions, rated as category 2; and only fifteen proposals (two pre-projects and thirteen projects or 33% of the total) were commended to the Committee for final appraisal with minor modifications required (category 1).

Out of the 46 proposals, only 4 were categorized under Forest Industry, 14 were categorized under Economics, Statistics and Market and 28 were categorized under Reforestation and Forest Management.

The presentation also highlighted the following:

- Government agencies or research institutes were executing agencies (EAs) in 28 proposals. Out of this number, 12 were research organizations. NGOs and Associations were EAs in 18 proposals. From these, there was only 1 proposal submitted from a women's association and 2 from youth related associations.
- Only two proposals covered transboundary topics and gender issues are mostly not being incorporated in project proposals; and
- Proposals from new members often did not meet the criteria of the ITTO Manual for project formulation of 2009.

The presentation also highlighted general findings and recommendations of the Expert Panel at its Fifty-second meeting, which include the need to provide training and enhance the capacity of new members on project formulation, and review the Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment in ITTO Projects.

The delegate of US acknowledged the hard work of the Expert Panel members, as well as the Secretariat in undertaking the process of appraising the 46 project proposals within a short period of time. The delegate encouraged the Secretariat, following the adoption of the Guidelines for Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Assessment and the Guidelines for Achieving Gender Equality and Empowering Women, to include the checklist of the Guidelines in the manual of project proposal formulation. The US delegate also expressed that they would be ready to discuss this issue in the next Expert Panel meeting. Due to high volume of project proposals submitted and the few projects funded, there is a mismatch of expectations. The US delegate indicated that they would be open to discuss the number of Expert Panel meetings going forward and invite other Member opinions on this matter.

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

The Committee noted the projects and pre-projects that were approved under the time-bound electronic no objection procedures to accept the Expert Panel's ratings and circulated to member countries pursuant to Decision 6(XLIII), as contained in Document ITTC/EP-52, following the recommendations of the Expert Panel at its Fifty-second Meeting held in Yokohama, Japan from 5-9 June 2017, as follows:

**Fifty-second Expert Panel**

## Category 1:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
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
PD 836/17 Rev.1 (F)	Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Monduliri Provinces of Cambodia	Cambodia
PD 853/17 Rev.1 (F)	Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru	Peru
PD 861/17 Rev.1 (F)	Carbon Storage in Timber Producing Forests as a Value Criterion in Rural Communities in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico	Mexico
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	Guatemala
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	Peru

The Committee also noted that PD 828/16 Rev.2 (F) which received Category 1 from the 52nd Expert Panel but was not included in the approval list because the revised proposal did not adequately address the recommendations of the 52nd Expert Panel.

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 828/16 Rev.2 (F)	Land Management, Sustainable Forest Management and Commercial Production in Kichwa and Siekopal Communities of the Ecuadorian Amazon Region	Ecuador

## Category 4:

PD/PPD NUMBER	TITLE	SUBMITTING COUNTRY
PD 827/16 Rev.1 (F)	Promoting Sustainable Forest Management in Indigenous Lands of the Ecuadorian Amazon through Improved Access to Forest Product Value Chains	Ecuador
PD 833/17 (F)	Improving the Genetic Base for Teak Plantation Establishment in Ghana	Ghana
PD 834/17 (F)	Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests in Colombia	Colombia
PD 850/17 (F)	Strengthening of Sustainable Forest Management through Pilot Experiences for Integrated Utilisation of Forest Value-Adding Potential in Ethnic Group Lands in the Colombian Pacific Region	Colombia
PD 854/17 (F)	Promoting the Sustainable Production and Utilization of Mahoganies for Timber and Non-Timber Products by Industrial and Community Stakeholders in the West African Region	Ghana

PD 862/17 (F)	Capacity Building for the Establishment of Forest Plantations in South-East Mexico	Mexico
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The Committee took note that the Fifty-third and Fifty-fourth Meetings of the Expert Panel are tentatively scheduled for 19-23 February 2018 and 25-29 June 2018, respectively based on Document ITTC(LIII)/Info.6 – Project Cycle Calendar for Spring 2018 and Document ITTC(LIII)/Info.7 - Project Cycle Calendar for Autumn 2018. The Committee further noted that the Joint Session of the Committees dealing with the report of the Expert Panel would discuss the project cycle for 2018.

#### **Item 6 – ITTO Annual Market Discussion -2017**

The Committee noted the summary of the ITTO Annual Market Discussion – 2017, held in the Joint Session of the Committees on 29 November 2017, as contained in Appendix A to Document CEM-CFI(LI)/4. The theme of the Market Discussion was “Sharing Experiences on promoting investment in tropical timber industries and tropical forestry”. Mr. André de Boer (TAG Co-coordinator) chaired the Market Discussion.

The following feature presentations were made during the Market Discussion:

Ms. Ingrid Nielsen Head of Investment Advisory and Strategy Consulting Indufor Group, Finland	<i>Experiences of Profitable Investments in the Forestry Industry Value Chain with Expected Sustainable Development – Tanzania and Indonesia Case Studies</i>
Mr. Erik Luis Fischer Llanos President, Forest Committee Association of Exporters (ADEX), Peru	<i>Proposals to Promote Investment in the Timber Industry in Peru and its Socio-economic Development Impact</i>
Dr. Ivan Tomaselli President STCP Engenharia de Projetos Ltda Brazil	<i>Regional Experiences in Attracting Investments for the Forestry Sector</i>
Mr. Bob Tate Executive Officer Papua New Guinea Forest Industries Association	<i>Reconciling Investment Policy Confusion, Conflict and Conditionalities</i>
Mr. Christian Held Deputy Head, Forest Investment Division UNIQUE Consulting Germany	<i>Investing in Timber Production: Lessons Learnt from Plantations, Natural Forests and Silvo-Pastoral Systems</i>
Mr. Rik Sools Deputy Director and Senior Forestry Expert FORM International Netherlands	<i>Unlocking Investments for Forest Restoration on Degraded Lands in Africa – the Form International Experience</i>

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

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

The Committee considered the completed project contained in Document CRF(LI)/2 and noted that only one project is to be declared complete by the Council.

## **7.1 Completed Projects**

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

The Committee took note that the project had been implemented by the University of Southern Queensland (USQ) in close collaboration with PNG Forest Authority. The project had developed a voluntary governance standard through a multi-stakeholder participatory process which would be a useful tool to evaluate the quality of governance of forest management and associated emissions reduction activities in PNG. The voluntary standard is a set of principles, criteria and indicators (PC&I) and associated verifiers and means of verification that promotes forest sector governance, as a basis for monitoring and reporting on governance quality. The project's digital products and outputs have been posted on the ITTO website for widespread dissemination, and can be further downloaded via the online project search engine or requested directly from the Executing Agency. Therefore, the Committee considered this project as completed.

The Delegation of PNG made a presentation to the Committee on the project's main outputs comprising the development of a draft REDD+ quality-of-governance standard, a REDD+ stakeholder database and the establishment of a national group to promote the standard. He highlighted that as one of the lessons learned from the implementation of the project was that to be effective of the quality-of-governance standard, more capacity building for the national groups involved is required. The Delegate of Japan commended the efforts of the Executing Agency and the PNG Forest Authority for the successful implementation of the project and recommended the effective use of the quality-of-governance standard as a guiding tool.

## **7.2 Completed Pre-project**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PD 372/05 Rev.1 (F) Contribution to Forest Rehabilitation in Thailand's Areas Affected by Tsunami Disaster

PD 501/08 Rev.1 (F) Promoting Household Reforestation in Tropical Zone of Southwestern China through Development and Extension of Household-Oriented Techniques

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

PD 54/00 Rev.4 (F) Genetic Resistance of Iroko to *Phytolyta lata* – Phase II (Côte d'Ivoire)

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

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

**5) Thematic Group Evaluation: Teak**

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

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

The Committee took note that the results of the ex-post evaluation of PD 270/04 Rev.2 (F) under the Thematic Group of Teak were presented to the Committee at its Fiftieth Session in 2016. Four other selected Thematic Group evaluations were not conducted due to funding constraints resulting from the impairment of ITTO funds. The Committee also noted that, although its scale was down due to the financial constraint resulting from the impairment of ITTO funds in 2016, the ex-post evaluation of the thematic group evaluation on Teak had contributed to the publication entitled "Global Teak Study: Analysis, Evaluation and Future Potential of Teak Resources" which was published earlier 2017 by IUFRO in its World Series Volume 36.

**(B) Selection of Projects for Ex-post Evaluation**

The Committee took note that the current ex-post pooled fund balance of CRF projects is zero due to Decision 6(LII) authorizing ITTO to use the entire amount for the financial impairment. It also noted that new ex-post pooled funds would be made available only when projects with ex-post evaluation budgets are declared closed by the Council in the coming years. The Committee further noted that a limited ex-post evaluation might be possible for 2019 or later if projects with ex-post evaluation budgets are declared closed by the Council in 2018 and 2019. In this regard, the Committee decided to extend the list of ex-post evaluations scheduled for 2015-2016 to 2018-2019 focusing on the four thematic groups, namely 1) forest management / inventory, 2) biodiversity conservation / conservation areas, 3) forest rehabilitation / landscape restoration / secondary forest management, and 4) improvement and conservation of genetic resources.

In prioritizing amongst the four thematic groups in the extended list of ex-post evaluations, the Delegation of Germany suggested that a priority be given to the restoration thematic group as growing regional and global restoration initiatives are currently taking place in the tropics. The selection of this thematic group as a priority was supported by the Delegations of Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, the USA and Colombia. In response to the clarification on the available funds for ex-post evaluations raised by the Delegations of the USA and Columbia, the Secretariat said that a very limited ex-post evaluation would be conducted in 2019 after projects with ex-post evaluation budgets are closed in 2018. In light of this, the Committee recommended that the ex-post evaluation of the thematic group on forest rehabilitation / landscape restoration / secondary forest management be conducted as a priority when the necessary funds are made available.

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

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

**(i) Promote the publication, dissemination and application of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Activity 4 (b), Extension of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(LII)] [CRF(LI)/4]**

The Secretariat reported to the Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Activity as follows:

- The revised Voluntary Guidelines for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests, adopted by the Council through the Decision 4(XLIX), were published in 2015 and superseded the 1990 guidelines. The new guidelines are designed to serve as guidance for addressing the policy, legal, governance, institutional, ecological, social and economic issues that need to be taken into account in the planning, implementation and evaluation of SFM in natural tropical forests to ensure the sustainable provision of forest goods and environmental services.
- After the holding of the first regional workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2015 and the second regional workshop in the city of Cotonou, Benin, in May 2017, the third regional workshop on ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests is planned to take place in a Latin American country to be selected if funds are made available during the 53<sup>rd</sup> ITTC session held in Lima (Peru).

During the discussion on the Item 10 of the Committee agenda, the Delegation of Peru made comments on the implementation of this Activity in relation to: the holding of the third regional workshop on ITTO Voluntary SFM Guidelines which should be considered as a priority for Latin America and Caribbean. The Delegation of Peru emphasized on the interest and importance for the holding of this third regional workshop as a good opportunity to discuss on the ways and means to harmonize the set of Criteria and Indicators for SFM of the Tarapoto Process with the new set of ITTO Criteria and Indicators for SFM published in 2016 and its related ITTO Voluntary SFM Guidelines of 2015.

**(ii) Strengthening cooperation and collaboration between ITTO and African member countries on C&I and related topics, in relation to the outcomes of the Second Regional Workshop on the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Decision 4(XXIX)] [PD 124/01 (M)] [CRF(LI)/4] [new Activity under Biennial Work Programme 2018-2019]**

The Secretariat reported to the Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Activity as follows:

- A total of 32 participants, including ITTO focal points and substitutes from the forest agencies of African ITTO member countries and technical experts and civil society representatives attended the workshop from a total of thirteen (13) member countries in the Africa region namely: Benin; Cameroon; C.A.R, Congo (absent but country report delivered); Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique and Togo.
- The revision of the ATO-ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PC&I) for the sustainable management of African natural forests was considered as an urgent matter, as the current set of PC&I is already endorsed by many ITTO member countries in Africa as part of their national forest policies. It is also used as a reference policy document contributing to the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), under the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT), being negotiated by some ITTO member countries in Africa with the European Commission. This ITTO Policy publication is a tool contributing to strengthen the cooperation and collaboration on SFM issues between ITTO and African member countries, because it had been promoted through the implementation of the ITTO operational phased regional project PD 124/01 (M).

The Committee provided the Secretariat with the following comments and views regarding the implementation of this BWP Activity:

- The Delegation of Benin extended the gratitude to ITTO Secretariat and Donors (Japan and USA) for the holding of the second workshop on ITTO Voluntary SFM Guidelines in Cotonou, Benin, in May 2017. It was a fruitful meeting for exchanging experience and challenges of African ITTO member countries on the



implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) practices based on the ATO-ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PC&I) for the sustainable management of African natural forests.

- The Delegation of Cote d'Ivoire informed the Committee that efforts have been made by African ITTO member countries to internalize in national forest policies and implement the ATO-ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PC&I) for the sustainable management of African natural forests, which should be subject to urgent revision and update by the ITTO Secretariat, in order to be consistent with the new set of ITTO Criteria and Indicators for SFM published in 2016 and the correlated 2015 ITTO Voluntary SFM Guidelines.
- The Delegation of Peru thanked the ITTO Secretariat for the support leading to the development of the set of Criteria and Indicators for SFM of the Tarapoto Process which should be harmonized with the new set of ITTO Criteria and Indicators for SFM published in 2016 and its related 2015 ITTO Voluntary SFM Guidelines.
- The Delegation of Finland reminded the pioneer role played by ITTO with the development of the first global set of Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for SFM which served as model for the preparation of Helsinki Process set of C&I for SFM.

**(iii) Contribute to national and international efforts in the prevention and management of fire in tropical timber-producing forests [Activity 14 (b), Extension of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016]**

The Secretariat reported to the Committee the progress made in the implementation of this Activity as follows:

- This activity was approved by the Council at its Fifty-first Session of the Council in 2014 under the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016. This provided TTO to contribute to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Global Wildland Advisory Group, and the related Global Wildland Fire Network (GWFN) and Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), and provided support for the Africa, Asia, and Latin America Regional Wildland Fire Networks and other inter-institutional cooperation efforts in the prevention and management of fire in tropical timber producing forests.
- ITTO provided support to the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference which took place in October 2015 in the Republic of Korea by assisting the participation of 14 participants from ITTO member countries and organizing a side event.
- The International Liaison Committee (ILC) meeting of the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) was held at the US Forest Service in Washington, DC, USA in February 2017. The ILC meeting confirmed that, in light of the importance of strengthening international collaborative efforts towards global fire monitoring, the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) will take place in May 2019 in Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil under the theme of "Integrated Fire Management: Challenges and contributions". It will be hosted by the Ministry of Environment through IBAMA (National Center for Prevention and Fighting Fires).

In the context of the implementation of BWP 2018-2019, the Secretariat looked forward to providing its support to the organization of the 7th International Wildland Fire Conference (IWFC) in May 2019 in Brazil by assisting the participation of ITTO forest fire-related project teams and organizing a side event to share ITTO experience in integrated forest management.

**(iv) Promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems [Activity 10, Extension of ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 / Decision 2(LII)]**

The Secretariat reported to the Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Activity as follows:

- The activity was approved as a part of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme (BWP) 2015-2016 as approved by the Council in November 2014 in order to strengthen practical actions and partnerships to facilitate conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove forests and their ecosystems. The specific objectives of this activity were to review actions taken by ITTO and other organizations and stakeholders; and to organize an international conference to share lessons learned, discuss challenges and opportunities and identify strategies and practical actions that ITTO and its member countries can take.
- The first objective was fully implemented in collaboration with the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) in 2015. At the Forty-ninth Session of this Committee held in 2015, a report was presented by Professor Shigeyuki Baba, Executive Director of ISME on the outcomes of the study.

- The second objective of the activity, the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems was organized on 18-21 April 2017 in Bali, Indonesia, with the generous contribution of the Governments of Japan and the USA. The conference was jointly organized by ITTO, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia and the International Society of Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) with the support of many partners including the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the US Forest Service, FAO, AFoCo, as well as proactive mangrove-related civil society groups and the private sector in Indonesia. It was attended by nearly 300 policymakers, researchers, practitioners and community representatives from 25 countries worldwide.
- The conference discussed several important themes for promoting the sustainable management of mangrove forests and ecosystems including addressing climate-change adaptation and mitigation, sustainable livelihoods for mangrove-dependent communities, restoration of degraded mangrove forests and ecosystems and strengthening good governance, law enforcement and monitoring systems.
- The conference demonstrated that, with adequate investment, sustainable mangrove management can play a significant role in conserving and enhancing carbon sinks, enabling adaptation to climate change, and achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 5, 13, 14 and 15. It also showed the leading role of women in the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded mangroves worldwide and the importance of involving local communities in sustainable mangrove management.
- The conference issued the "Bali Call to Action for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems". These are:
  - prioritizing sustainable mangrove management in national policies and laws and strengthening forest law enforcement;
  - promoting sound land-use planning, clarifying land tenure and user rights, and empowering local communities, especially women;
  - increasing the effectiveness of mangrove restoration with best restoration strategies and practices based on science;
  - facilitating access to financing mechanisms to scale up mangrove-based climate-change mitigation and adaptation; and
  - generating and disseminating knowledge on mangrove management and change and reporting on the status of mangrove management worldwide
- The announcement of "Bali Call to Action for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems" in English, French and Spanish and the conference report summarizing the key messages of each session can be downloaded from the mangrove conference webpage on the ITTO website at <http://www.itto.int/mangrove2017/>. ITTO's Tropical Forest Update (26 No. 3) has produced a special edition featuring selected materials from the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems.

The Secretariat expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Japan and the USA for their generous support and to the co-organizers - the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia and the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems (ISME) as well as their partners for their close cooperation for the effective organization of the conference).

The Delegation of Indonesia thanked the Governments of Japan and the USA as well as the ITTO Secretariat and the partners for the successful organization of the conference in Bali, Indonesia. Recalling that Indonesia has around 3.5 million hectares of mangrove forests, he looked forward to more opportunities for collaboration with ITTO and others in the restoration and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in the country. He also hoped that the announcement of the "Bali Call to Action for Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems" will be a global reference in raising the importance of mangrove ecosystems contributing to the implementation of SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

The Delegation of the USA thanked the Government of Indonesia and the Secretariat for the successful organization of the conference in promoting sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems. She commended the conference's thematic coverage including the roles of women in mangrove restoration and management, science-based restoration, and governance as well as the usefulness of a one-page outreach material highlighting key messages of the conference. In light of the importance of moving forward, she also indicated her intention to review the proposed activity 5 of the BWP 2018-2019 on restoration, conservation and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems.

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

The Secretariat reported to the Committee on the progress made in the implementation of this Activity as follows:

- The revision of the ITTO guidelines on forest land restoration is a follow-up to the recommendations of the ITTO technical report prepared by WRI through the implementation of the Activity PP-A/49-288 under BWP 2013-2014, in order to take into account some important aspects of forest restoration contributing to make progress towards relevant forest-related climate goals, as well as towards relevant United Nations sustainable development goals (SDGs) and global forest goals (GFGs) of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). This is an Activity for the BWP 2018-2019.
- Those major developments in international community which are correlated to forest policies include the following: the United Nations sustainable development goal 15 (SDG-15) that promotes halting the global deforestation and the Paris Agreement on Climate which places efforts to tackle deforestation and promote sustainable forestry as a core achievement within the framework of global carbon mitigation measures.

There was no comment from the Committee on the implementation of this Activity.

**(vi) Developments in the UNFCCC regarding Forests and their Potential Implications for Tropical Forests and the World Tropical Timber Economy [Decisions 2(XXXIX) and 1(XLI)]**

The Committee took note that this policy activity had been an agenda item of the Council to update the recent developments in the UNFCCC regarding tropical forests in particular REDD+ in developing countries. Referring to the UNFCCC COP23 which took place in Bonn, Germany, in November 2017, The Secretariat reported the Committee on the recent developments in the UNFCCC regarding forests in particular REDD+ as follows:

- In UNFCCC COP23, there was only one agenda item under the 47th session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 47 item 9 – Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries of UNFCCC COP23. Parties discussed and reviewed the outcomes of REDD+ voluntary meetings and considered existing institutions or the need for alternative institutional arrangements to coordinate support for REDD+. As the discussion of this item could not reach a conclusion, the SBI at its next session in COP24 in 2018 will continue its discussion on this matter.
- Outside of the formal COP23 negotiation processes, there was a forest thematic day on Sunday, 12 November. The programme of the forest thematic day included forest & climate science, progress in implementation; enabling conditions needed to move forward, and deforestation-free supply chains. In partnership with the REDD+ Research and Development Center of Japan, ITTO organized an official side event of COP23 titled “Mangroves in the Tropics: Realizing the potential for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation” on 13 November 2017 and the outcome of the International Conference on Sustainable Mangrove Ecosystems held in April 2017 in Bali, Indonesia was introduced.
- The Green Climate Fund at its 18th Board meeting held on 30 September-2 October 2017 adopted a pilot programme for REDD-plus results-based payments covering the following elements:
  - The REDD-plus pilot programme will be operational with a maximum amount of USD 500 million until 2022;
  - The period of eligible results is from 31 Dec 2013 (time of adoption of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+) to 31 Dec 2018;
  - Price set at a fixed value of USD 5 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of reduced emissions or enhanced removals;
  - The maximum amount of payments per country would be set at 30% of the total payable volume (30 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq) during the entire length of the pilot programme; and
  - Recipient countries will need to fulfill the elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+.

In the discussions, the Delegations of Guatemala, Columbia and Peru underlined the importance of financing opportunities for SFM through REDD+ under UNFCCC and recommended strengthening ITTO's efforts to facilitate access to international financing mechanisms. In facilitating access to REDD-plus financing mechanisms contributing to reducing deforestation, the Delegation of Peru suggested a joint approach between ITTO and other organizations in such endeavours. In order to increase synergies between forest and climate change, he reminded of the importance of developing and implementing integrated national forest action plans

The Delegation of Costa Rica highlighted the importance of the GCF's REDD+ pilot programme as an opportunity to reduce emissions in the forest sector contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. He added that the REDD+ pilot programme includes an incentive system providing an additional 2.5% of the resulting value for biodiversity conservation in REDD+ activities as non-carbon benefits.

### **Item 10 – Biennial Work Programme of the Committees for 2018-2019**

In accordance with the recommendation by the Council, the Committee reviewed the draft ITTO Biennial Work Programme for 2018-2019, as contained in document ITTC(LIII)/7, particularly the section pertaining to the strategic policy activities of the Committee.

In reviewing priority the BWP 2018-2019 in the area of reforestation and forest management, several delegations expressed their views. The Delegation of Guatemala pointed out the priority of conservation and management of mangroves, landscapes restoration, and forest fire prevention and management as well as protection of forests against pests and diseases. The Delegation of Colombia suggested ITTO support to the organization of an international conference on halting deforestation. The Delegation of Costa Rica highlighted the vital importance of added value to sustainable tropical timber and suggested the inclusion of such activities in the priority list. The Delegation of Peru supported the proposal made by the Delegation of Colombia while expressing the importance of scaling up restoration activities and conducting regional C&I workshops. He suggested that priority be given to involving both the producer and consumer groups to increase the chance of financing BWP activities. Recalling the harmonization of C&I undertaken with African Timber Organization (ATO) and Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) with ITTO support, He also stressed the desirability of harmonizing different C&I processes.

The Delegation of USA supported the importance of forest fire prevention and management and collaboration on C&I for SFM. She sought clarification on the co-financing possibility for mangrove activity; engagement of ATO in adapting the 2016 ITTO C&I for SFM to African context; engagement of IUCN, WRI and their potential partnerships in updating ITTO guidelines for forest landscape restoration; and reducing the estimated costs in preparing a tropical forest management 2019 report. In response to the USA, the Secretariat clarified that ATO was no longer operational and therefore the Commission for Central African Forests (COMIFAC) will be involved for Congo Basin countries while the ITTO member countries in West Africa will be consulted during the process of revising and updating the ATO-ITTO PC&I for SFM. The Secretariat also clarified that the previous Activity under BWP 2013-2014 had already used that approach with a partial partnership with the World Resources Institute (WRI) which was materialized by a technical publication containing useful recommendations to be taken into account during the implementation of the Activity 10 (b) under BWP 2018-2019. The Secretariat also indicated that the budget for Activity 26 could be adjusted based on further discussion.

The Committee also noted the vital importance of implementing the ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW) which were presented at the Council.

The Committee considered the following list a priority for the BWP 2018-2019 in the area of reforestation and forest management:

- Activity 1: Incentives for green-growth value chain investments in tropical forests
- Activity 2: Building legal and sustainable forest product supply chains
- Activity 5: Restoration, conservation and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems
- Activity 8 (a): Criteria and indicators workshops
- Activity 8 (b): Adapting the 2016 ITTO Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for SFM to African context
- Activity 10 (a): Operationalizing the ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW)
- Activity 10 (b): Update the ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration
- Activity 12: Prevention and management of fire in tropical timber producing forests
- Activity 13: International conference on halting deforestation and increasing forest area
- Activity 15: Collaboration on criteria and indicators for SFM
- Activity 26: Status of tropical forest management 2019 report

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

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

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

The Committee was further informed that the implementation of most project activities has been revitalized since earlier 2017 after slowed down or even suspension in 2016 due to the financial impairment.

## **11.1 Projects**

The Committee took note of the status of projects that had been approved by the Council, as contained in Document CRF(LI)/3 Rev.1, as categorized: (A) projects under implementation (twenty-eight projects); (B) projects awaiting implementation agreement (four projects); (C) projects awaiting financing (sixteen projects); and (D) projects coming under the sunset provisions since the last session (seven projects).

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

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

#### **1) PD 383/05 Rev.2 (F) Community Forest Development in Gabon**

The Committee took note that the implementation of this project had contributed to the sustainable management of the rural forest estate in Gabon and organizing the village estates and combating poverty in the communities established in the rural areas through the development of community forests. The project contributed to experiment the establishment of three pilot community forests and to develop SFM guidelines for community forests based on the results derived from established pilot community forests. Referring to question from the Delegation of Germany, the Secretariat explained to the Committee that the project specific objective was still relevant although its operation period lasted 89 months instead of 36 initially planned by the implementing agency because of the restructuring of the executing agency and very frequent turn-over of project coordinators.

The Committee also noted that, in August 2016, the Secretariat received the Completion Report. However, the Final Financial Audit Report has not been submitted by the Executing Agency. In this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's rules and procedures and submit the Final Financial Audit Report, at its earliest convenience, but not later than end of March 2018.

#### **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)**

The Committee took note of the project extension until 16 April 2018 in order to allow the Executing Agency to complete all project 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. The Committee asked the Executing Agency to complete these constructions for the benefit of local communities involved in the project implementation during the extension period.

#### **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**

The Committee took note of the gratitude extended to the ITTO Secretariat and Donors (Japan and Michigan University of Technology, USA). The Committee also took note that the implementation of this project intended to build capacity for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) forestry-related in Ghana via a community rehabilitation of degraded forests. It specifically intended 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.

The Committee further noted that, in August 2016, the Secretariat did not receive the Completion Report and the Final Financial Audit Report. The Committee recalled that it had already urged the Executing Agency to submit the both reports at its Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Sessions.

The Committee furthermore noted that subsequent to the aforementioned situation, a termination notice was sent in April 2016 informing the Executing Agency that the Secretariat would be obliged to recommend the termination of this project, unless both the Completion Report and Final Financial Audit Report were submitted in due time. The Executing Agency (FORIG) informed the ITTO Secretariat that measures have been taken for the submission of the abovementioned reports at the beginning of 2018. In

this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's rules and procedures and submit these pending reports, at its earliest convenience, but not later than end of February 2018 (for the completion report) and end of March 2018 (for the final financial audit report).

- 4) **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” (Regional)***

The Committee took note of the project extension until March 2018 in order to allow the Executing Agency to complete all project activities, including an international conference to be held in March 2018, in order to share the findings and lessons of this project, as recommended by the fifth project steering committee meeting. The Committee asked the Executing Agency to make sure that relevant stakeholders are involved for their participations in the abovementioned international conference.

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

The Committee noted that the Executing Agency has been urged to expedite the implementation of project activities because the project's implementation had been progressing at an extremely slow pace. The Delegation of Thailand informed the Committee that the project manager passed away in November 2016 and a new project manager has been in place since July 2017. Two national consultants from the Kasetsart University have been engaged since May 2017. One consultant is working on the preparation of a draft Thai C&I, taking into account the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests (ASEAN C&I) under output 1 (National C&I and standards of performance for SFM developed, tested and adopted). Another consultant is reviewing the legal requirements and national/international experiences on tracking/COC. The implementation of the project is now on track and the implementation of all project activities will be concluded before the end of next year. In order to successfully conclude the project, the Committee reiterated the critical importance of the Executing Agency to fulfil its commitment to the effective and successful implementation of the project.

- 6) **PD 495/08 Rev.4 (F) Guatemalan Forest Productivity Information System (Guatemala)**

The Committee noted that this project has been technically completed but the Secretariat is still awaiting the final report and audited financial statement. The Delegation of Guatemala expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Japan and the USA for financing the project. He informed the Committee that the preparation of those report is in the final stage and they will be submitted in early next year. The Committee urged the Executing Agency to ensure the submission of the required reports at the earliest opportunity so that the project can be declared complete by the Council at its next session in 2018.

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

The Committee took note that the project implementation was further extended until December 2017 without additional ITTO funds from the ITTO Secretariat. 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 from 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 Committee asked the Executing Agency and the Consultancy Team to make efforts for the completion of this project during the extension period.

- 8) **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 (Ghana)**

The Committee took note of the gratitude extended to the ITTO Secretariat and Donors (Japan and USA). The Committee also took note that the implementation of this project had contributed 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 Committee also noted that, in August 2016, the Secretariat received the Completion Report. However, the Final Financial Audit Report has not been submitted by the Executing Agency. The Committee recalled that it had already asked the Executing Agency to submit the Final Financial Audit Report at its Fiftieth Session. In this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO’s rules and procedures and submit the Final Financial Audit Report, at its earliest convenience, but not later than end of March 2018.

9) **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**

The Committee took note of the gratitude extended to the ITTO Secretariat and Donors (Japan and Michigan University of Technology). The Committee also took note that the implementation of this project had contributed to the 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.

The Committee also noted that, in September 2017, the Secretariat received the Completion Report; however, the Executing Agency (FORIG) did not submit the Final Financial Audit Report. Upon receipt of an acceptable Final Financial Audit Report by the Secretariat, this project should be considered as completed. Therefore, the Committee asked the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO’s rules and procedures and submit the Final Financial Audit Report, at its earliest convenience, but not later than end of March 2018.

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

The Committee noted that this project has been supported by APFNet under the collaborative MoU between ITTO and APFNet on Rehabilitation and Sustainable Forest Management. The Committee also noted that, although many project activities have been implemented on the ground in line with the approved project document and annual work plan, the development of two community-based forest management plans, which is a key output of the project, has been slow. The Delegation of Malaysia expressed its appreciation to APFNet in China for financing the project and ITTO secretariat for providing a supervising service in collaboration with APFNet. He informed the Committee that the project has been focused on the livelihood improvement of the Kelabit and Penan indigenous communities and the preparation of two community forest resource management plans has progressed. Although the reporting of the first year’s implementation of the project had been delayed, the progress report for the first year and the financial audit report have already been submitted and the project is on track. The Committee urged the Executing Agency to endure successful implementation of the project in accordance with the approved yearly plan of operation for the second year in accordance with the rules and procedures of APFNet.

11) **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)**

The Committee took note that the implementation of this project had contributed 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 contributed 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 Committee also noted that, in March 2016, the Secretariat received the Completion Report. However, the Final Financial Audit Report has not been submitted by the Executing Agency. The Committee recalled that it had already asked the Executing Agency to submit the Final Financial Audit Report at its Fiftieth Session. In this light, the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's rules and procedures and submit the Final Financial Audit Report, at its earliest convenience, but not later than the end of March 2018.

12) **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**

The Committee noted that the project has been promoting the conservation and sustainable use of local natural resources of the Tacana volcano which straddles the border between Guatemala and Mexico. The Committee also noted that the implementation of all technical activities has been concluded and the Executing Agency is in the process of finalizing a project completion report and financial audit report. The project leader made a presentation on the main achievements of the project to the Committee. He highlighted the selection of 7 priority areas for restoration and conservation with the establishment of 12 forest nurseries, livelihood initiatives including ecotourism, agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems and improved technical and legal frameworks for integrated management in the Tacaná Volcano in the frame of transboundary cooperation between the two countries. The Delegation of Mexico commended the project leader for his very clear presentation highlighting the importance of improving livelihoods to conservation. He also commented that this kind of a transboundary cooperation project must receive a priority from ITTO and expressed gratitude to the Governments of Japan and the USA for financing the project and to the Secretariat for close cooperation. The Delegation of Panama congratulated the two countries for their transboundary cooperation and the two donors for their financing. He commended the project leader for his nice presentation including interesting videos showing the effective involvement of local communities. The Delegation of the USA thanked Guatemala and Mexico for implementing the project with engagement of several agencies in the two countries in a transboundary context. The Delegation of Guatemala questioned whether a second phase proposal could be delivered to the Secretariat. Congratulating the Executing Agency for its excellent work, the Secretariat indicated that a second phase proposal could be submitted as the immediate deadline for receipt of proposals is 15 December. The Committee requested the Executing Agency to submit a completion report and financial audit report at the earliest opportunity, no later than the end of March 2018.

**(B) Projects awaiting implementation agreement**

The Committee noted that four projects are currently awaiting implementation agreement, as contained in Document CRF(LI)/3 Rev.1.

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

The Committee noted that the project Phase I has been split into two stages to allow implementation to commence utilizing funds generously made available by the USA and Republic of Korea. The Committee also noted that the agreement for the implementation of this project's Stage 1 was finalized by Myanmar just before the ITTC-53. It is expected that the Executing Agency, Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, will start the project early next year.

2) **PD 764/14 Rev.3 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilot Areas of PNG**

The Committee noted that the project was funded in 2015 by the government of Japan and the project agreement was sent to PNG Forest Authority in May 2017 after amendment to the project document. The Delegation of PNG informed the Committee that the signing of the agreement has been delayed due to the official formalities required to get beforehand the no-objection of concerned offices in PNG. The PNG FA has contacted the Climate Change and Development Authority office (CCDA) as the project is related to climate change. The Project Agreement (PA) is therefore awaiting an endorsement letter from CCDA, to be forwarded together to the State Solicitor's office for clearance before PNG FA counter signing. The Committee urged the Executing Agency to expedite the signing of the project agreement for the early commencement of the project.



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

The Committee noted that this project had been split into two phases to allow implementation to commence utilizing funds generously made available by the Government of the USA and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Phase I will be running for 24 months with an amount of USD 250,000 while Phase II is seeking an amount of USD 351,000 for 24 months. There have been delays in commencing implementation, most recently due to the need to revise the project document and agreement to accommodate a request from the government of Guatemala (INAB) for a different Executing Agency. The Executing Agency proposed is now the Foundation for the Conservation of Natural Resources and the Environment in Guatemala (FCG). These revisions have now been approved and the project agreement has been sent to the government of Guatemala. The Delegation of Guatemala informed the Committee that the signing of the project agreement was finalized and it will be submitted soon to ITTO for counter signing.

**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)**

The Committee noted that the project was funded in 2016 by the Government of Japan and the project agreement was sent to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia for the signing process by the relevant parties in May 2017. Highlighting the importance of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve in terms of biodiversity conservation and water resource to Jakarta, the Delegation of Indonesia informed the Committee that the project agreement was signed by the Executing Agency but this signed document was misplaced. He also confirmed that the signing of the project agreement will be finalized soon so that the project can commence its activity in early 2018.

**(C) Projects awaiting financing**

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

- 1) \*PD 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- 4) PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar – Phase I Stage 2
- 5) PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Partnership Efforts to Restore Peat Swamp Forests in Sumatra (Indonesia)
- 6) PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Production of Indonesian Rosewood (*Dalbergia* spp) (Indonesia)
- 7) PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Eboni Species (*Diospyros celebica* Bakh) Involving Local Stakeholders in Sulawesi (Indonesia)
- 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)
- 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

- 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
- 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)
- 12) PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F) Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin
- 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
- 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 Mondulhiri Provinces of Cambodia
- 15) PD 853/17 Rev.1 (F) Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru
- 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

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

The validity period for PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F), PD 713/13 Rev. 2 (F), PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F), PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F), and PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) will be extended for an additional 20-month based on the official request from the contact point of the submitting country in accordance with the provision of re-submission of approved projects.

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

The Committee noted that ten projects had become sunset since its 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

## 11.2 Pre-project

The Committee took note of the status of approved pre-projects, as contained in Document CRF(LI)/3 Rev.1 and considered the implementation issues, details of which were as follows:

### (A) Pre-projects under implementation

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

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

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

### (C) Pre-projects awaiting financing

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

- 1) \*PPD 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
- 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)
- 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
- 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

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

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

- (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)

### **Item 12 - Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2018**

Mr. Dambis Kaip (PNG) was elected as Chairperson for 2018. Dr. Jobst-Michael Schroeder (Germany) was elected as Vice-Chairperson for 2018.

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

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

The Fifty-third Session of the Committee would be held in conjunction with the Fifty-fifth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council to be convened in Lomé, Togo.

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

The Delegation of Peru highlighted the importance of implementing PD 853/17 Rev.1 (F) "Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru" as a priority due to a high incidence of wildfires in natural forests in the country. He encouraged the financing of this project by the Council at this session in Lima.

The Delegation of Benin also highlighted the importance of implementing PD 776/15 Rev.2 (F) "Enhancement of the Wildland Fire Prevention and Control System for the Sustainable Management of ONAB's Plantations" due to high forest fire incidences in 2015 resulting the loss of about 5,000 hectares considering that Benin is a low forest cover country and PD 822/16 Rev.1 (F) "Production, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Forest Seeds in Benin" to provide quality seeds for more productive and successful reforestation activities in the country. He encouraged the financing of these two projects by the Council at this session in Lima.

The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire noted that in the list of projects awaiting financing, some countries have two or more proposals. The Committee took note of his concern which is the outcome of the Expert Panel dealing with appraisal of proposals submitted by eligible member countries.

The Delegation of Indonesia informed the Committee that the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has sent a letter to ITTO in October 2017 to extend the validity period for PD 735/14 Rev.2 (F), PD 736/14 Rev.1 (F), PD 739/14 Rev.1 (F) and PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F). The Committee took note of the extension of these projects' validity period for an additional 20-month in accordance with the provision of re-submission of approved projects [Council approved projects which have not been funded within a validity period of 20 months may be revised and resubmitted to the Council. Failing resubmission, the project will lose its status as an approved Project – Decision 2 (X)].

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

(A) The Committee recommended that funding be made immediately available for the following projects and pre-project approved under the Project Cycle 2017:

#### **Projects**

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) [ITTO Budget: US\$ 445,715]
PD 836/17 Rev.1 (F)	Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Monduliri Provinces of Cambodia [ITTO Budget: US\$ 514,651]
PD 853/17 Rev.1 (F)	Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru [ITTO Budget: US\$ 441,045]

PD 861/17 Rev.1 (F) Carbon Storage in Timber Producing Forests as a Value Criterion in Rural Communities in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico  
[ITTO Budget: US\$ 649,386]

**Pre-projects**

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  
[ITTO Budget: US\$ 48,261]

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 [ITTO Budget: US\$ 87,490]

(B) The Committee recommended that funding be made immediately available for the implementation of the following activities listed in the BWP 2018-2019:

- Activity 1: Incentives for green-growth value chain investments in tropical forests
- Activity 2: Building legal and sustainable forest product supply chains
- Activity 5: Restoration, conservation and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems
- Activity 8 (a): Criteria and indicators workshops
- Activity 8 (b): Adapting the 2016 ITTO Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for SFM to African context
- Activity 10 (a): Operationalizing the ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW)
- Activity 10 (b): Update the ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration
- Activity 12: Prevention and management of fire in tropical timber producing forests
- Activity 13: International conference on halting deforestation and increasing forest area
- Activity 15: Collaboration on criteria and indicators for SFM
- Activity 26: Status of tropical forest management 2019 report

**Item 16 - Report of the Session**

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

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