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**REPORT ON**

**PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

**IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**



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**PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

A total of twenty-three (23) approved projects are currently under implementation while additional one (1) project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are twenty-one (21) approved projects still awaiting full financing. In this report, the projects are grouped into three 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; and
- C. Projects which still do not have full financing secured

**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.

During its 51<sup>st</sup> session, the Committee was informed that the Secretariat received the Completion Report, in August 2016, without submitting the Final Financial Audit Report (FFAR). That's why 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. The FFAR was not submitted at the time of the preparation of Committee documents yet. The Committee could consider the termination of this project, as the project implementing team was no longer responding to the reminder messages sent by the ITTO Secretariat.

**(2) 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: August 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. With conclusion of all necessary administrative arrangements, the project became operational in August 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.

Since the project became operational in August 2017, it has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Strategies and work plans for SFM tools have been reviewed. During the inception workshop in August 2017, it recognized the importance of motivating teachers and lecturers to include the use of SFM tools in the curricula of forest engineers and technicians, and elective courses in environmental disciplines. The most promising modules to do this, appeared to be forestry inventory, forest management and harvesting, growth dynamics and economics and other correlated disciplines lessened at technical schools;
- Institutional cooperation arrangements are underway with selected organizations for training and dissemination to carry out training activities about SFM tools. Initially, three institutions (IFPA, UEPA, SEMAS-PA) were selected for bilateral discussions and arrangements;
- Launch of BOManejo SFM tool, a software to assist forest managers in preparing sustainable forest management plans: This software was tested under practical conditions in cooperation with CIKEL Verde Ltda., a major timber company in Pará State, in the first semester of 2018. It helps in the planning and carrying out sustainable forest management plans in Amazônia through the identification of trees for harvesting based on clear environmental criteria and regulations, and enables companies to obtain timely approvals for their operations;
- Training programs and teaching materials for SFM tools have been prepared. Along with the improvement of BomManejo, MFT (Monitoring of Tropical Forests) data bases were prepared with realistic samples from the permanent plots monitored by EMBRAPA research team in the experimental sites. The first training courses for these two SFM tools were held in April 2018 for lecturers and teachers of forestry courses of mainly public institutions for higher education. It is intended to repeat this training course during the project duration;
- Review of SFM guidelines developed in the project 1st phase is underway: These guidelines include: Guidelines for Good Forest Management in Terra Firme Forests in the Brazilian Amazon; Guidelines for Assessing the Social Dimension of Forest Management; Guidelines and Manual for Auditing Forest Management Plans; and Guidelines for Book-Keeping of Forest Operations. There is also a plan to elaborate new Guidelines for Economic Monitoring and Analysis of Forest Management Activities in the Brazilian Amazon;
- Organizing a seminar on technical and institutional aspects related to sustainable forestry timber production is reviewed in conjunction with the World International Environment Day (05th June 2019) and IUFRO World Congress 2019 in Curitiba-PR, Brazil; and
- Arrangements to conduct an assessment of technical, social, financial and environmental effects on six selected enterprises in the framework of SFM tools are under way.

The second meeting of the Project Steering Committee is scheduled to take place in mid-October 2018 with participation of representatives from the Executing Agency, the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), the Brazilian Forest Service and the ITTO Secretariat towards the efficient and effective implementation of the project in accordance with the rules and procedures of ITTO.

**(3) 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:	1 <sup>st</sup> extension: March 2018 (NOLF.17-0067) 2 <sup>nd</sup> extension: March 2019 [NOLF.18-0037 & JICA(6R) 5-31001]		

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 6 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 Fifty-first 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 implementation, is presented in the following table:

Training institution and Country	Nature of contract	Name of sub-contractor	Total budget (US\$)	Paid amount (US\$)	Remaining amount (US\$)
CRESA-Yaoundé, Cameroon [JICA funds]	V	Leroy Beaulieu	78,334	78,334	0
	E.I.	INTERFACE	18,115	18,115	0
	C/R	MGS	62,010	62,010	0
	E.F.	ITKE	61,007	61,007	0
ENEF-Mbalmayo, Cameroon [JICA funds]	V	Leroy Beaulieu	78,333	78,333	0
	C/R	Trinity / ETS COMABA	92,800	92,800	0
FASA-Dschang Université, Cameroon [JICA funds]	V	Leroy Beaulieu	78,333	78,334	0
	E.I.	INTERFACE	18,115	18,115	0
	C/R	SISERCO	176,510	176,510	0
	E.F.	ITKE	61,008	61,008	0
ISDR-Mbaïki, Central African Republic [JICA funds]	E.I.	Yang	49,962	49,962	0
	C/R	Groupe SYLVA	129,731	125,729	4,002
	E.F.	Yang	88,892	88,892	0
ENSAF-Brazzaville (ex. IDR), Rep. of Congo [JICA funds]	V	CFAO Congo	65,328	65,328	0
	E.I. & E.F.	GGR / GEO-SCIENCE	34,842	32,310	2,532
	C/R	Co-Maison	180,027	180,027	0
ERAIFT-Kinshasa, D. R. Congo [JICA funds]	E.I.	IT-COM	79,857	79,857	0
	V	CFAO RDC	74,214	74,214	0
	E.F.	GEO-SCIENCE	84,500	82,853	1,647
ENEF-Libreville, Gabon [Non-JICA funds]	C/R	SZTC	143,200	143,200	0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1,655,118</b>	<b>1,646,937</b>	<b>8,181</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 were completed for the following training institutions: ENEF-Mbalmayo (Cameroon), ENEF-Libreville (Gabon), 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), ISDR-Mbaiki (Central African Republic) and ENSAF-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo). Forest equipment and materials were fully delivered to CRESA-Yaounde (Cameroon), ERAIFT-Kinshasa (D. R. Congo), FASA-Dschang (Cameroon), ENSAF-Brazzaville (Republic of Congo) and ISDR-Mbaiki (Central African Republic).

- The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC Secretariat) continued the electronic-based dissemination of the reference training modules/programmes and associated teaching methodologies (at university level and 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 other RIFFEAC training institutions. The editing and printing of the training modules had been undertaken and hardcopies had been distributed to all RIFFEAC training members (22 members) in the Congo Basin countries (ITTO and non-ITTO member countries). The harcopies of these training modules are very useful in order to facilitate their use in most training institutions which are regularly facing the electric power cut, in most Congo Basin countries. The training modules are available in the ITTO website through the folowing link: [http://www.itto.int/project\\_search/detail/?proid=PD456%2F07+Rev.4+%28F%29;](http://www.itto.int/project_search/detail/?proid=PD456%2F07+Rev.4+%28F%29;)

- 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;
- The international conference on forestry training in Congo Basin countries, which was held on 5-7 March 2018, in Douala (Cameroon), was attended by more than one hundred experts from Congo Basin countries and from ITTO member countries in Africa, as well as from other continents (America, Asia and Europe). The conference opening ceremony was attended by two representatives of JICA Office in Cameroon (Junko MASUDA and Muneyuki KOZU), as well as by Gerhard DIETERLE (Executive Director of International Tropical Timber Organization - ITTO). The e- version of the proceedings of this international conference on forestry training in Congo Basin countries is available and the hardcopies could be printed out by end of September 2018, for distribution at the COMIFAC Ministerial Conference to be held in October 2018 in Sao Tome & Principe. The speeches of the opening ceremony, as well as interviews of selected participants, including Madam Junko MASUDA, have been made available on ITTO website through the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-8vSyKsrN\\_1v67kfGli113yUKFseXqzI](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL-8vSyKsrN_1v67kfGli113yUKFseXqzI)
- The implementing agency submitted a concept note to the Embassy of Japan and JICA Office in Cameroon, in order to start preliminary discussions which could provide appropriate guidance for the preparation of a second phase of this project, under the same partnership involving the COMIFAC, RIFFEAC, JICA and ITTO.

**(4) 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)  
Extension until 31 December 2018 (NOLF.18-0026)

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 (RFD) 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. There was a long delay in implementing the planned activities after the project started first few months, due to flooding, political change in Thailand and reshuffle of officers in RFD,



and later conflicts and difficulties to process documents and all formalities. To address the long delay of project implementation, a new project manager has been engaged since January 2018. The project is now on track with the extension of its duration until the end of 2018 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 Chain of Custody (COC)/timber tracking; and adequate personnel trained on auditing C&I/standards of performance and COC.

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

- Improvement of draft C&I and SOP for planted forests and community forests in Thailand is under way. Two national consultants have collected data and information, and produced the first draft. This draft was reviewed by National Working Group meeting held on 18 July 2017. The National Working Group comprises three sub-groups: Development of C&I on Planted Forest; Development of C&I on Community Forest and Development on COC. Based on the comments of the National Working Group and other stakeholders, the first draft has been revised into the second and third versions;
- A consultation workshop was held on 11 September 2018 with attendance of 50 participants. Deputy DG of RFD welcomed the participants, highlighting the importance of developing and implementing C&I and COC for SFM in Thailand. Two consultants are further improving the third draft to address the commendation of this consultation workshop;
- Two consultants and the project team are scheduled to visit community forests in Chaing Mai on 10-12 October 2018 to receive inputs from local stakeholders on the third draft. The final draft C&I and COC document will be shared on the website of RFD and other websites for public hearing to get comments from related sectors and stakeholders. After about 30-45 days of a public hearing, review of the final draft will be concluded in the end of November. Another consultation workshop is scheduled to take place in late November; and
- Training and outreach materials for the C&I and COC guidelines are being produced for training courses.

The implementation of all project activities is expected to be completed in December 2018 and the final workshop involving the private sector will be held to disseminate the results to related stakeholders.

**(5) 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's involvement and community prosperity through successful plantation of these commodity species.

Until the date of reporting, the specific objective (i) has been completed whereas the specific objective (ii) is in progress to accomplish its Output 2.1: High quality planting materials for plantation produced and distributed and Output 2.2: Community-forestry plantation model involving relevant stakeholders. The progresses of activities under both Outputs are convincing to be completed by end of November 2018.

All completed outputs and activities under the Specific Objective (i) are:

**Output 1.1. Seed sources of selected species identified and their suitable technology developed.**

- Activity 1.1.1 Identification of seed sources for 2 selected indigenous species (*Michelia valutida* and *Durio spp*)
- Activity 1.1.2. Development of propagation and plantation techniques for the selected species.

**Output 1.2. Technical guidelines for plantation technology of selected species developed and disseminated**

- Activity 1.2.1. Preparation and development of technical guidelines on seed handling and planting for the species.
- Activity 1.2.2. Workshop on plantation technologies of the selected species

The outputs and activities to be completed under the Specific Objective (ii) are:

**Output 2.1. High quality planting materials produced and distributed**

- Activity 2.1.1. Improve nursery technology to produce and distribute planting materials
- Activity 2.1.2. Distribute high quality planting materials to participating communities.

**Output 2.2. Community – forestry plantation model developed**

- Activity 2.2.1. Review and refine the existing community forestry plantation model.
- Activity 2.2.2. Develop and establish plantation model in 3 districts.

The Project Technical Committee meeting to monitor the progress of implementation of project activities is scheduled to be held in October 2018. The meeting will focus on discussing the project exit strategy to ensure its positive impacts and its sustainable benefits for the communities.

**(6) 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 submitted its final report in April 2018 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish only). The audited financial statement is expected to be received prior to the 52nd session of the Committee. If it is submitted on time and judged satisfactory, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(7) 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 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 was planned for the validation of the final technical report. The most important part of the last installment of ITTO funds were supposed be directly paid (in tranches) to the consultancy team for the abovementioned activities of this special arrangement.

However, the project implementing agency (FDA-Liberia) had not submitted neither progress reports nor financial audit reports for the project implementation period covering 2017 and 2018. Therefore, the Secretariat could not assess the implementation of the abovementioned special arrangement which was recommended by the Committee during its 51<sup>st</sup> session, due to the lack of information. The non-compliance with ITTO rules and procedures, by not submitting required reports in 2017 and 2018 to the ITTO Secretariat, as well as the lack of reaction of the implementing agency to reminder messages sent by the ITTO Secretariat, could be a basis for the Committee to consider recommending the termination process of this project in accordance with the rules and procedures applying to ITTO projects.

**(8) 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)  
Fourth extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18-0085)

This project was approved in November 2009 and it was 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 the project has been significantly delayed due to the weakness of the project management team and three changes of the national project coordinator. The project duration was extended until the end of September 2019 to fully achieve the objectives of the project.

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 have been focused on: continued operation of a reforestation awareness program for landowners and wider community and promotion of model community reforestation activities at 3 ILGs at Rigo; establishment of clonal orchard and seed production units with monitor of seed production at Kuriva Forestry Station; and distributing with agro-forestry stock and materials for small-scale farmers.

The sixth PSC meeting was held on 22 June 2018 and reviewed the implementation of the project. The recommendations of this meeting include resolving urgently the task of reopening the PNGFA Project Accounts which were closed by the Department of Finance, and conducting an internal mid-term evaluation of project implementation with preparation of an extension proposal. Based on this recommendation, an extension proposal was submitted, and it was granted to fully achieve the objectives of the project. The activities and budget have been amended to reflect the change of activities that will be undertaken by PNGFA and the partners - NARI, SME Corporation and Pacific Islands Projects Limited (PIP). Within the extension period of the project, the following activities will be focusing on:

- Promote the benefits of trees and forests to primary and secondary school children in Central Province through a school resource pack.
- Identify customary landowners who are ready to plant trees on their land at 3 new locations in Central Province using a landowner awareness pack.
- Establish 3 new model community reforestation enterprises with individual landowners/family units interested and ready to plant trees (bringing the total area up to 10 hectares or more of teak and other planted species)
- Create a one-stop source of business and agroforestry information for tree growers and field workers in Central Province through the Tree Growers Tool Kit
- Complete the establishment of provincial distribution hubs at Kuriva (PNGFA) and Laloki (NARI) that supply local distribution centres serving 4 model reforestation communities

The project has built cooperation between the forestry sector to the community in establishing and adopting a model community project in growing teak and others for future timber supply, economic purposes and environmental reasons from the project sites to other communities around the country. The project is

playing a great role to the national reforestation program - *Operation Painim Graun na Planim Diwai* - in which the PNGFA is tasked to plant 800,000 hectares of trees by 2050.

**(9) 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.

The project has completed its activities. A terminal evaluation to the project led by ITTO was completed in August 2018. The evaluation concluded that the project specific objectives were mostly achieved because all project's outputs were mostly achieved. This achievement contributed to fulfilling the project's goal. The project benefitted the community through its infrastructure development, capacity building and alternative livelihood activities. The community requested the project to be continued with particular emphasis on capacity building for productive economic activities, including NTFPs development, implementation of forest management plans and a co-management mechanism, and improving skills on tourism industry.

Main lessons learned from the implementation of the project include:

- In the first year of its implementation, the project had been encountered with some obstacles, especially on weak coordination between the Project Manager, the EA and the supervisory body. Facilitated by a good coordination between the EA, ITTO and the APFNet, corrective actions were put in place and all outstanding matters were finally overcome and the project successfully continued its activities. The smooth implementation in the project's second year is attributable to the able new project management team of the Forest Department Sarawak, competent PSC and supportive partners especially village administrations and consultants;
- One of the critical problems facing the project operation was the accessibility of target villages, especially during the rainy seasons that had to be regularly visited under the heavily damaged road

network. The project would have been managed more efficiently and achieved its objectives more effectively, if the road conditions were improved; and

- Trust building between the project team and the communities is the key success. The project team must effectively communicate with the local people. Therefore, the presence of project team members and consultants that can speak the local language is necessary. This situation exists in the APFNet/ITTO project. Prior to the implementation of such projects, there is a need to convey all project idea, scope, intervention etc. to communities in order to avoid misunderstanding and false expectation.

In the terminal evaluation, recommendations were formulated for the Forestry Department Sarawak (FDS-the Project Executing Agency), APFNet and ITTO. The main recommendations include:

- As a share of NTFPs (gaharu and rattan) in households income has a good prospective, it is strongly recommended to implement follow-up NTFP-related projects in the Sungai Medihit catchment area, taking into account the lessons learned from the completed APFNet/ITTO project;
- The forest management plans developed by the project for the two sites need to be implemented as early as possible and be regularly monitored their progresses; and
- In order to sustain the implementation of the critical activities initiated under the project, continued assistance to local communities after project completion is needed; to this end, there is a need to allocate necessary resources to the extent possible.
- The project's results need to be effectively disseminated through different channels, including convening a seminar/workshop with stakeholders' participation, including private sector.
- To continue supporting the indigenous communities (the Kelabits and Penans) in Sungai Medihit, a second phase of the project is recommended and it could be formulated based on the current project's findings and recommendations. NTFPs development is one of the potential targets as this resource development is basically for pro-poor, pro-job and pro-environment with relatively small capital requirement; and
- Strengthening cooperation between ITTO and APFNet needs to be promoted through redefining the functions of a project supervisory body.

Upon receiving the formal acceptance of project outputs and completion declaration from APFNet, the project would declare its completion in this or next Session of the Committee.

**(10) 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, the third disbursement in March 2017 and the fourth (final) in July 2017.

In June 2016 MDA was informed by the ITTO Secretariat 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 worked to improve the standard of living of the population in mangrove ecosystem areas in the regions of Tumbes and Piura. More specifically, it increased 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 achieved to date 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 Fifty-first session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report submitted in August 2017 and a monitoring visit undertaken in December 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.

After the project restarted, activities were 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 2017-18. 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 2017-18 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 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 the end of 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.
- Preparation of the final technical report.

A final project steering committee meeting and monitoring mission was undertaken in December 2017 at which time the project outputs and contributions to community development in Tumbes and Piura were reviewed and confirmed. The project has now successfully completed all activities and a full completion report was submitted to the Secretariat (Spanish only) in June 2018. If the Executing Agency submits a satisfactory final audit accounting for the use of ITTO funds prior to the 52<sup>nd</sup> CRF Session, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(11) 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 Extension until December 2017 (NOLF.17-0066)  
Project Completion: Extension until July 2018 (NOLF.18-0008)

This project was approved under the Spring 2012 Project Cycle 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 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.

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 Fifty-first 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) and a monitoring visit undertaken in December 2017, 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).

A final project steering committee meeting and monitoring mission was undertaken in December 2017 at which time the above project outputs were reviewed and confirmed. In summary, the project has successfully completed all activities and is expected to submit its final report and audited financial statement prior to the 52nd session of the Committee. If it does so and these reports are judged satisfactory, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(12) 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*) 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 Fifty-first Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Experiments for Cempaka seeds collection, storage, and germination continue. These experiments will provide the best possible knowledge of the plantation of Cempaka, stimulating community-based nurseries and plantations for this species;
- Six small-scale nurseries established by the project have been managed by local communities with continued 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. Conservation of genetic resources for Cempaka tree species is expected with support of local communities in North Sulawesi;
- Initial review of the government policy on the conservation and utilization of Cempaka species and incentive systems for Cempaka plantations by local small holders is under way;

The implementation of the project during the reporting period has been slow due to limited project implementation experience of the project team. The Third Meeting of the Project Steering Committee is scheduled to take place at the Manado Forest Research Institute in mid-October 2018 with participation of representatives from the Forestry and Environment Research Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), local governments and ITTO. The meeting will review the efficient and effective implementation of the project and the progress of achieving the project objectives including development of a draft strategy and action plan for Cempaka conservation and development in North Sulawesi.

**(13) 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 holding of the 50<sup>th</sup> Committee session (in November 2016). Although the implementing agency (PICODEV-Ghana) was urged by the 51<sup>st</sup> Committee session (in December 2017) to strictly abide to ITTO's rules and procedures and submit the Final Financial Audit Report (FFAR), not later than the end of March 2018, no report was received by the ITTO Secretariat at the time of the preparation of Committee working documents. After a final urgent recall sent by the ITTO Secretariat, the implementing agency promised to submit the FFAR, in order to get this project reported as completed by the Committee during its 52<sup>nd</sup> session in November 2018.

**(14) 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 Tacana 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 Fifty-first session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's completion report submitted in February 2018 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish), 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 all activities. A small amount of remaining funds was approved for use to produce additional project output outreach materials in 2018; this work has also been completed and copies of all outputs provided to the Secretariat. The project is expected to submit an audited financial statement (including the use of remaining funds) prior to the 52nd session of the Committee; if it does so and this is judged satisfactory, the Committee may wish to declare this project complete.

**(15) 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		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18 -0084)		

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. During the implementation of the project, it has faced several challenges including lack of engagement and commitment of relevant stakeholders, the project sites severely affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston in late February 2016 which thrashed the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, and a change of the government financial year. Based on such challenges, the project duration extension was granted until end of September 2019.

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 Fifty-first Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Community awareness and alternate livelihood options: Trainings on the importance of coastal and mangrove wetland and identification of alternate livelihood options were conducted for 6 villages. The focus of the trainings includes implementing an applied management action plan for the conservation of mangrove land and sustainable agricultural practices on sloping terrain, and capacity building through strengthening village-based natural resources committees. The project has produced community mangrove management action plans which address social, economic and environmental issues;
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded coastal mangrove ecosystems: Community trainings were provided on tree seed collection, raising of seedlings and planting of seedlings with establishment of permanent nurseries which include coastal species, fruit trees and native trees. From the trainings, there is a change in communities' perception of management of coastal and wetland mangrove systems. Land-use mapping exercise was carried out to identify areas and species that need to be planted for restoring degraded coastal and mangrove wetlands. The rehabilitation and restoration of degraded coastal mangrove ecosystem in all of the 6 sites is an on-going work; and
- Development of mangrove management guidelines: On 1 Feb 2018, the project organized the first workshop (Mangrove Needs Assessment) on the formulation of mangrove management guidelines with local communities within the project. The workshop captured the local knowledge of the communities with regard to their mangrove ecosystems and this knowledge was incorporated into a village level guideline. The development of national mangrove management guidelines is expected to be completed by end of this year. The guidelines will be kept as an achievement of the project and it will be given to Department of Lands for assistance in the formulating and developing of the Mangrove Management Action Plan for Fiji.

The ITTO project plays a very important role in assisting the communities to rehabilitate degraded coastal mangroves in Rewa Delta. The conservation of mangroves will provide natural barriers against strong winds and waves including risks associated with climate change and sea level rise.

**(16) 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

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 31 August 2018 (NOL.Ref.no.F.18-0010)  
Extension until 31 December 2018 (NOL.Ref.no.F.18-0069).

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 plan of operation, the project commenced in January 2015. The project duration was extended to the end of 2018 to fully achieve the objectives of the project.

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, andalas, 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 Fifty-first Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Strategy and suitable methods for conservation of each selected species have been reviewed. An interview was carried out on villagers around Kayu Aro, a village at the foot of Mount Kerinci and received people attention to the benefits of taxus which requires a sound conservation strategy not exceeding its regeneration capacity. Five drafts of strategies and conservation action plan for five species: taxus (*Taxus sumatrana*), merbau Sumatera (*Intsia palembanica*), kulim (*Schorodocarpus borneensis*), andalas (*Morus macroura*) and giam (*Cotylelobium melanoxylon*) were successfully developed and improvement of these drafts is under way;
- Ex-situ conservation of selected species has been established and revitalized. A 2-ha ex-situ conservation plot of *T. sumatrana* was developed at Research Forest Sipisopiso at Merek District, Karo Regency of North Sumatra Province. The development of merbau plot at Research Forest Area Kemampo, Musi Banyuasin Regency of South Sumatra Province was completed. The first maintenance was also already conducted. In addition, planting seedlings of kulim, giam, andalas and merbau were done in 4-ha area of the conservation plot in Mount sago Nature Tourism Park (NTP) in Tanah Datar Regency of West Sumatra Province. The next and final phase of planting will be carried out before the end of this year;
- A workshop and awareness raising of law enforcement on forest harvest was held on 7 May 2018 with attendance of more than 75 participants from various stakeholders including local NGO and communities, local universities. The workshop was successfully done with presentations from relevant experts including Directorate General of Law Enforcement of MoEF, Jakarta. The report of this workshop has been prepared as a technical report of the project;
- Stand management of selected in-situ conservation areas through enrichment planting and stand management is under way. A main plot is located in Mount sago Nature Tourism Park (NTP), Labuah Gunung Village of Lima Puluh Kota Regency. Since andalas was planted in enrichment planting system, this main plot covers not only andalas, but also local species which already exist at the location; and
- A monumental plot of andalas was built with concept of building a conservation education site in the tourism sites of national highway Kelok Sembilan that serves as interstate highway connecting Riau and West Sumatra Provinces. This monumental plot comprises around 58 seedlings of andalas that were planted by chiefs of government institutions within the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as well as the Regency Administration. A video of planting ceremony in the Monumental Plot can be accessed at the following link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl75X99DXM&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wl75X99DXM&feature=player_embedded).

The project is making good progress with extension of the project duration. It is envisaged that all project activities will reach their completion in the end of 2018 with wider dissemination of project results to interested parties and individuals.

**(17) 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 commenced project implementation in October 2017.

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.

The project's first progress report submitted in March 2018 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish), shows satisfactory progress in activities under all of the above outputs. The first project steering committee and project monitoring mission is scheduled in October 2018; the Secretariat and/or the representative of Guatemala will provide the Committee with any additional relevant information arising from this mission.

**(18) 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 Indonesia	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:	June 2018 / 24 months	

The project was approved in Autumn 2013 but it was 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 in 2017. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in December 2017. After finalizing the detailed work plans, the Stage 1 of Phase I became operational in June 2018.

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.

Since the Stage 1 of Phase I of the project became operational in June 2018, it has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Organized an inception workshop on 24 August 2018 at FRI in Yezin after establishing a competent project team;
- Organized a training course on forest monitoring (SMART) on 5-7 September 2018 in Taninthari Township in collaboration with ongoing initiatives; and an awareness and consultation meeting on 8 September 2018 at Meeting Hall of General Administration Department, Taninthari Township;
- Organized a training course on livelihood improvement and agroforestry on 9-11 September 2018 at Taninthari Township;
- Conducted research on socio-economic assessment on 5-12 September 2018 by focusing on seven villages (Border Area) in Taninthari Township;
- Organized a public education and awareness talk on transboundary wildlife conservation on 12 September 2018; and

- Project team participated in a habitat management training which was held on 19~21 September 2018 at Mt. Popa Mountain Park.

The Executing Agency is planning to conduct a flora survey and collect baseline data for wildlife in the study areas in Taninthari along with public environmental talks in November 2018.

**(19) 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 Fifty-first Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Stakeholder understanding and knowledge of REDD+ has been improved. Lessons learned from the implementation of REDD+ projects and activities in Cambodia were collected and preparing a report is under way;
- Research program on REDD+ in the Tumring Forest in Kampong Thom Province developed and implemented with identification of activities to reduce carbon emissions and enhance community livelihoods;
- For the improvement of livelihoods of target communities, production and distribution of seedlings of fast growing tree species and fruit trees are on-going with engagement of Tumring Forestry Administration Triage; and
- REDD+ guidelines and training programs have been strengthened for effective design and implementation of REDD+ activities. A draft concept note on capacity building on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) capacity at the Forestry Administration Cantonment and Community Forest levels was circulated. Organizing training courses on remote sensing at the national and administrative levels is under review with identification of resource persons. Attention

has given to the establishment of equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms and sound social and economic environmental safeguards.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Project Steering Committee is scheduled to take in mid-November 2018. In addition to the review of the project, it would increase the project's cooperation with on-going REDD+ projects and activities in the country.

**(20) 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 year 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 also undertaken. The first project steering committee meeting took place in December 2017; a second PSC and field monitoring visit is scheduled for late 2018. The latest progress report submitted in August 2018 by the Executing Agency (through ITTO's online monitoring system) is available from the Secretariat in Spanish.

**(21) 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 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 Fifty-first 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:

- As a continuous and regular activity, the project executing agency continued the sensitization campaign, which started with the project inception workshop, on the roles and importance of Sacred Forests in Benin. Local entities (associations, cooperatives, local NGO) had been involved in the abovementioned sensitization campaign because of their capacity to directly interact with local communities living in areas covered by the implementation of this project;
- National consultants were hired for the drafting of simplified forest management plans (SFMP) for 42 Sacred Forests involved in the project implementation. The draft SFMPs had been circulated for the validation process by relevant stakeholders;
- Socio-economic study had been carried out by a national consultant in order to review in-depth the socio-economic opportunities of 42 Sacred Forests involved in the project implementation. The draft report of the socio-economic study had been circulated for the review of main recommendations which could contribute to provide appropriate guidance for the implementation of alternative income generating activities in Sacred Forests and/or in surrounding landscapes;
- National consultant undertaking a technical study dealing with the identification of improved agriculture production systems (IAPS), in order to recommend appropriate ways and means to implement these identified IAPS;
- Local Management Committee for each Sacred Forest, which was put in place for the need to provide support to the project executing agency, had been involved in the implementation of some project field activities, around the Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018, in Benin.

For the ground supervision of this project, by the ITTO Secretariat, the monitoring mission (second project steering committee meeting and field visits in selected Sacred Forests) is scheduled for October 2018, in consultation with the ITTO Focal Point in Benin.

**(22) 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: approved I in Fall 2017

Starting Date and Duration: June 2018 / 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 approved through ITTO's online no-objection procedure in September 2017. The project agreement of Phase I was finally signed in May 2018 following delays in finalizing the CBD contribution to the project and implementation commenced the following month.

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".

The executing agency has commenced initial project activities, including constituting the project team and finalizing the proposed pilot restoration sites. A first project monitoring mission is scheduled to take place in September 2018; the Secretariat and/or the representative of Guatemala will provide the Committee with any additional relevant information arising from this mission.

**(23) 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: August 2018 / 36 months

This project was approved in the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle and financing was made in April 2016. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in January 2018 after ITTO suspension period of payments to all projects from June to December 2016. After completion of the required administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project including a detailed yearly plans of operation, the project became operational in August 2018.

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.

Implementation of project activities began in August 2018 and the progress has so far been establishing a competent project team with purchase of computers and a printer as well as an initial consultation with stakeholders. It is envisaged that reviewing the existing land use plans will be made with recommendations for best land use practices of buffer and transition zones. In addition, sustainable livelihood models will be examined for demonstration and training in collaboration with local communities and private firms.

**B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT**

**(1) 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:	March 2017		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months		

The third revised project was approved in March 2017 through the electronic approval system under Autumn 2014 Project Cycle. The financing was made in 2017. 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.

Review of the draft project agreement by the country's concerned attorney authority and other institutions is still underway and it is expected to be completed soon. It is envisaged that the implementation of the project is expected to take place in January 2019.

**C. PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING**

**(1) 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.

**(2) 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.

**(3) 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. Phase I Stage 2 of the project will commence, if funded, following completion of Phase I Stage 1.

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, 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.

**(4) 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. Considering 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.

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

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.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	460,124
ITTO Budget:	US\$	351,944
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: approved I 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 by CBD and USA at the 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> ITTC Sessions in 2015 and 2016. Following revision of the proposal into two Phases 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 approved through ITTO's online no-objection procedure in September 2017. The project agreement for Phase I was finally signed in May 2018 following delays in finalizing the CBD contribution to the project and implementation commenced the following month.

Phase II of the project will commence, if funded, following completion of Phase I [see Section A (22) PD 765/14 Rev.4 (F) – Phase I.]

**(8) PD 781/15 Rev.3 (F) Master Plan for the Repositioning of Forest Management as A Competitive Land Use in the Agroforestry Landscape of the Northern Region of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	708,093
ITTO Budget:	US\$	466,893
INISEFOR-UNA	US\$	72,000

CODEFORSA US\$ 169,200

Implementing Agency: Forest Development Commission Association of San Carlos (CODEFORSA) *in collaboration with* Institute for Forest Research and Services (INISEFOR) at the National University of Costa Rica (UNA), Forest Finance Fund (FONAFIFO)

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Deforestation, illegal logging and poverty still prevail in the rural areas of Costa Rica. The reasons and stakeholders are numerous; however, despite the fact that small producers are also considered to be agents of change in the country's agroforestry landscape, their livelihoods are more dependent on forest goods and services. Furthermore, sustainable forest management (SFM) has emerged as a practical tool to assist in forest conservation (preventing deforestation and illegal logging) while also generating the income needed to satisfy local producers' needs (contributing to poverty alleviation).

Although SFM is promoted as a viable alternative to improve forest competitiveness when compared with other alternative land uses, forest owners face serious problems, including compliance with AFE's legal requirements when they apply for logging permits. Furthermore, cost/benefit ratios for SFM are far from being attractive for local producers, when compared with agriculture and/or livestock, and more recently, with imported timber. In this context, there is a need to work on forest revaluation through the design and implementation of a Master Plan that seeks to reposition SFM as a competitive type of land use in the agroforestry landscape of the Northern Region of Costa Rica. The objective of the project is to provide a cooperation framework for action at the regional level, that deals with the ecologic, social, economic and governance aspects of SFM. To this end, the project will work on three components: first, assisting forest producers in the Northern Region to market SFM products advantageously; second, implementing an applied research program on SFM to support AFE; and third, promoting and training on SFM as an alternative to improve forest competitiveness within the agroforestry landscape.

**(9) 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.

**(10) 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.

**(11) PD 842/17 Rev.2 (F) Exploring Innovative and Appropriate Tenure Conflicts Resolution Model on State Forest for Strengthening Forest Management Unit (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan/KPH) in Implementing Sustainable Forest Management (Indonesia)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,671,785
ITTO Budget:	US\$	825,138
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	348,647 (in-kind)
Partners/Collaborating Agencies		498,000 (in-kind)

Implementing Agency: CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC POLICY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (P3SEKPI), MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

Period of Approval: September 2018



Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Tenure and conflict settlement issue has become an important agenda of the current Indonesian policy as stated in Nawacita and Quick Wins, and formulated into Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Nasional (RPJMN) 2015-2019. Tenure conflicts occurred in almost all areas of state forests, both in production, conservation and protected forests.

The development objective of the proposed project is to reduce the existing tenure-based conflicts through developing appropriate model on state forest and develop general guideline conflict resolution that can be applied on a national scope. The expected outputs of the project are: 1) laws, regulations, and law enforcement strengthened; 2) appropriate model on tenure-based conflict resolution established; 3) demand on land for agriculture decreased, and 4) community rights highly recognized. At the end of the project, it is expected that the current tenure-based conflicts especially at the forest management unit (KPH) level decreased, so that it can accelerate sustainable forestry development. In addition, the capacity of the KPH officers in managing forestry-related conflict is also enhanced and local institutions and people welfare are also improved.

**(12) PD 849/17 Rev.2 (F) Increasing Commercial Reforestation Competitiveness in Costa Rica**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	432,533
ITTO Budget:	US\$	346,133
Government of Costa Rica :	US\$	86,400

Implementing Agency: 668/ COSTA RICAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL OF FORESTRY/RESEARCH CENTRE FOR FORESTRY INNOVATION (CIF)

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Commercial reforestation rates in Costa Rica have been decreasing since the early 2010s, reducing the timber supply for the domestic market, which in turn has led to increased risks of illegal logging in natural forests both in protected areas and in private forest lands. Furthermore, reduced reforestation rates are expected to cause the loss of employment opportunities, to foster the use of timber substitutes and, at the global level, limit the country's possibilities to achieve REDD+ targets. This project will increase commercial reforestation competitiveness in Costa Rica, with a view to fulfilling the Costa Rican need for forest products and providing the country with the opportunity to increase greenhouse gas sequestration and achieve the country's REDD+ targets. The project seeks to develop and test an effective reforestation financing system that promotes management of forest plantations in the country, increases their m<sup>3</sup>/hectare/year productivity, and develops high value-added timber products to improve forest producers' income.

**(13) 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.

**(14) 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.

**(15) PD 868/18 Rev.1 (F) Improving Local Governance for Landscape Restoration in the San Alejandro River Subwatershed, Padre Abad Province, Department of Ucayali, Peru (Peru)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	582,521
ITTO Budget:	US\$	380,000

Government of Peru :	US\$	202,521
Implementing Agency:	ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AIDER)	
Session of Approval:	September 2018	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months	

This project seeks to address the problem of the limited action that is currently being taken for landscape restoration in the San Alejandro River sub-watershed, Padre Abad Province, Department of Ucayali, where there has been a reported 24% increase in deforestation. Several stakeholders are involved in this landscape degradation process, including native communities, migrant settlers, local government and civil society.

The implementation of the project will contribute to landscape and biodiversity conservation and to the improvement of the quality of life of the population settled in the sub-watershed region, as well as to the improvement of local governance for landscape restoration. The project's expected outputs are: i) Public administration in charge of landscape restoration strengthened, ii) Landscape restoration skills of local communities strengthened, and iii) Civil society aware of and involved in landscape restoration. Planned activities include a biophysical diagnosis of the landscape in the San Alejandro River sub-watershed; the establishment of a Landscape Management Commission as a representative platform for various social stakeholders; the development of a Landscape Restoration Plan at the sub-watershed level; natural regeneration management and forest enrichment plantations in forests under restoration; pilot rehabilitation of degraded forests in native community lands; and awareness-raising on landscape restoration among local communities.

**(16) PD 873/18 Rev.1 (F) Integrated Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity in the Tacaná Volcano and its Area of Influence in Mexico and Guatemala – Phase II (Guatemala)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	2,113,121
ITTO Budget:	US\$	940,248
FCG:	US\$	150,692
Other sources	US\$	1,022,181

Implementing Agency:	FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN GUATEMALA – FCG	
Session of Approval:	September 2018	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months	

The project is located in the Tacaná volcano and its area of influence in Guatemala and Mexico, and is based on the outcomes of project PD 668/12 Rev. 2 (F), which was financially and technically supported by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Guatemala, INAB, CONAFOR, CONAP, CONANP, Municipal Governments and community organisation and representative roundtables. The specific objective of the project is to develop mechanisms that strengthen governance and consolidate a sustainable development model based on successful initiatives for the use, sustainable management, conservation and restoration of the forest, biodiversity and ecosystem services at Tacaná Volcano and its area of influence in Mexico and Guatemala. In this respect, the project will implement an innovative socio-institutional approach to project coordination and implementation, apply lessons learned and achieve greater impact by mainstreaming successful experiences in forest, biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation and sustainable use, developed in Phase I. Consolidating forest conservation and sustainable use actions requires local governance that allows for collective agreements to achieve sustainable socio-ecological processes as the basis for economic development in a land context that supports it.

The project will be implemented through an innovative strategic approach based on a land governance platform, including collaborating agencies that make decisions, discuss and reach agreement on the development model vision that uses conservation as a tool, starting from the designation of protected areas, boosts opportunities for economic activity, international cooperation, institutional and academic synergies, and collective action. On this basis, the project will mainstream capacities for sustainable use, conservation, business skills and value chains as the means to launch an economy-based wellbeing and human development process, satisfying basic needs and strengthening livelihoods to become more resilient and sustainable.

**(17) PD 881/18 Rev.1 (F) Gender Mainstreaming in the Development of Actions to Control Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Congo Basin (Cameroon)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	992,522
ITTO Budget:	US\$	846,326
Executing Agency:	US\$	146,196

Implementing Agency: AFRICAN WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT  
*(Réseau des Femmes africaines pour la Gestion Communautaire des Forêts–REFACOF)*

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54th 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.

This project, which envisages improving women's contribution to the development of actions to combat deforestation and forest degradation in Central Africa, will cover the following three countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was designed and initiated by the African Women's Network for Community-Based Forest Management (REFACOF), and is based on the following two observations: (1) lack of transparency relating to women's rights of access to land and forest resources; (2) countries in the Congo basin always struggle to lift their population out of poverty and ensure sustainable management for their forests, despite their wealth of natural resources in general, especially forest resources. Studies on the driving forces behind forest deforestation and forest degradation conducted in some countries in the Congo Basin, as part of the REDD+ process, have shown that small-scale subsistence agriculture is the main driving force behind forest deforestation.

It is also important to note that the inventory about gender issues in forest governance and women's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation produced by REFACOF in 2013 in four countries in West and Central Africa, via a pre-project funded by the ITTO revealed that (1) the subsistence activities of women in the forestry, agricultural and environmental sectors do indeed contribute to forest degradation and deforestation; (2) rural women are extremely dependent on the forests where they carry out a variety of agricultural activities and gather non-timber forest products. As women are part of the problem of forest degradation in the countries in the Congo Basin they should be involved in the solutions to rectify this situation. To this end, the effective involvement of rural women (local and indigenous) is essential and paramount.

**(18) PD 884/18 Rev.1 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Natural Forests in the Collective Afro-descendant Community Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia (Colombia)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	743,682
ITTO Budget:	US\$	580,235
Government of Colombia –	US\$	107,660
University of Tolima		
Community Council of the Bajo	US\$	55,787
Calima Black Ethnic Group		

Implementing Agency: UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA - COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE BAJO CALIMA BLACK ETHNIC GROUP in collaboration with MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Session of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This proposal originates from a recommendation of Project PD 415/06 Rev.2 (M) “Systematisation and Modelling of Economic and Technical Information to Train Professionals Related to the Production, Processing and Marketing of Timber Products”, implemented by the University of Tolima through an Agreement with ITTO and the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) of the Republic of Colombia. The management of the secondary natural forests of the collective territory of Bajo Calima, located in the Colombian Pacific plateau bio-geographic region, has been allocated to Afro-descendant communities through their Community Councils, but due to the lack of sustainable management, the natural environment in the area has been degraded. To address this problem, this project has the development objective of contributing to the implementation of management, conservation and restoration programs for the strategic ecosystems of the Colombian Pacific region based on enrichment planting and agroforestry systems established under a sustainable management approach. The specific objective of the project is to launch a participatory process with a gender focus involving the establishment of a 100-hectare pilot area under sustainable management, and implementing line enrichment planting and agroforestry systems. Teachers, community leaders and farmers will be trained in community organization, and in administration, use, management and conservation of natural resources. This process will be complemented by a research-action programme executed by undergraduate and graduate students from the University, with special emphasis on ecosystem services related to climate change.

The project seeks to help raise the living standards of the communities based on a gender equality and women empowerment approach in the collective territory of Bajo Calima, through sustainable forest management and the implementation of agreements signed by the Government of Colombia to achieve a stable and lasting peace. The sustainability of the project is guaranteed because it is of national, institutional and local interest and it is part of the actions established under the Integrated Strategy for Deforestation Control and Forest Management promoted by the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development.

**(19) PD 887/18 Rev.1 (F) Production and Availability of Teak Clone Varieties: Development of Improved Plant Material for Reforestation in Togo**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	880,302
ITTO Budget:	US\$	636,753
Government of Togo:	US\$	243,549

Implementing Agency: OFFICE FOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND USE (*OFFICE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'EXPLOITATION DES FORÊTS–ODEF*) collaborating with LOMÉ UNIVERSITY (UL)

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 48 months

This 48-month project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54<sup>th</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.

The aim of this project is to optimize the production of timber from teak plantations in Togo by developing and making available to the sector high quality planting material for reforestation. To do so, two main operations will be conducted by the project within the space of four years:

- Produce teak clones of high productivity based on wood technological characteristics of interest (natural durability, colour, percentage of heartwood) and in morphological terms through appropriate selections within existing tree stands in Togo.
- Implement a strategy to supply high-quality seeds to the teak sector (by converting existing parcels into teak seed sources and establishing teak seed-tree orchards of new origins) in the main plantation areas of Togo in order to produce improved seedlings, better suited to local environments.

In the short term, the project will make it possible to produce seedlings from improved plant material, which will be used for establishing reforestation and demonstration plots. The various industry stakeholders will have access to selected clonal varieties and improved seeds resulting in increased production yield and increased income. In the long term, activities should enable Togo's teak wood industry to have access to competitive products in adequate quantities, and of good conformation and quality resulting in higher material yields.

This project proposal was approved by ITTO during the 48th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (Decision 1) in 2012 under ID number PD 623/11 Rev.3 (F). The project was thereafter lapsed due to the absence of funding. The project proposal was updated by Togo for new submission.

**(20) PD 888/18 Rev.1 (F) Enhancement of the Participatory Bushfire Prevention and Management System in Togo**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	816,488.05
ITTO Budget:	US\$	677,846.53
Government of Togo:	US\$	138,641.52

Implementing Agency: OFFICE FOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND USE (*OFFICE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'EXPLOITATION DES FORÊTS–ODEF*)

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 40 months

This 40-month project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54<sup>th</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.

This project is the result of the study titled “Identification of a Project to Implement Priority Actions of the National Strategy for Managing Bushfires”, which was conducted between August 2010 and January 2011 with the financial support of ITTO. The project’s aim is to reinforce the traditional system that can help prevent and control bushfires in the most vulnerable government-owned forests and reforested areas of Togo with the participation of local communities, using both material and human resources.

The project will conduct, among other activities, an advocacy campaign on the harmful effects of bushfires and on current regulations, targeting 66 schools and the population of the 120 local communities located near the 22 most vulnerable forest areas across the 15 Departments of the country. Additionally, it will promote small-game husbandry through the training of 100 extension workers as well as sustainable cultivation practices through the training of 200 community leaders. The project will also establish a fire-control system and contribute to the protection of 10,000 ha of plantations and natural forests (of which 7,000 ha of government-owned and 3,000 ha of private forests) after the training of brigades in 15 of the 22 gazetted forests and reforestation areas selected for project implementation.

This project proposal was approved by ITTO during the 48th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (Decision 1) in 2012 under ID number PD 609/11 Rev.3 (F). The project was thereafter lapsed due to the absence of funding. The project proposal was updated by Togo for new submission.

**(21) PD 891/18 Rev.2 (F) Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands and Sustainable Rural Development in the San Martin Region, Peru (Peru)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	709,700
ITTO Budget:	US\$	397,020
PERUBAMBU	US\$	130,680
GORESAM, Municipalities, etc.	US\$	182,000

Implementing Agency: PERUVIAN BAMBOO ASSOCIATION – PERUBAMBU

Session of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project proposal stems from the increasing importance of bamboo in Peru as a result of the characteristics and properties of this resource, making it suitable for a wide variety of uses, particularly in the restoration or rehabilitation of degraded forest lands and consequent prevention of disasters, the establishment of bamboo plantations in hedges and/or agroforestry systems, the construction of housing and other seismic-resistant infrastructure, and the manufacturing of furniture, crafts, food and other significant uses for rural and urban development in the Peruvian tropical forest regions.

The development objective is to contribute to reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the tropical montane moist forests of the north-eastern forest region of Peru with improved living standards of the local communities. Specifically, it aims to promote the rehabilitation of bamboo forests in San Martin, reforest degraded forest lands in serious risk of erosion so as to prevent natural disasters, and improve the socio-economic conditions of poor communities. To achieve the objectives, the project activities will be focusing on strengthening their technical skills for bamboo plantations in agroforestry systems using diverse species, establishing bamboo forest management, increasing the commercial value added to bamboo products and ensuring efficient business development.

## **PRE-ROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

There is no approved pre-project is currently under implementation and one (1) pre-project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are three (3) approved pre-projects still awaiting full financing. In this report the pre-projects are grouped into three 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; and
- C. Pre-projects which still do not have full financing secured.

### **A. PRE-PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION**

None.

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

- (1) **PPD 189/17 Rev.2 (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\$	103,410
ITTO Budget:	US\$	50,000
UNALM:	US\$	43,510
National Forestry Chamber (CNF)	US\$	9,900

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: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 8 months

The pre-project was revised with a reduced ITTO budget and this revised project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system.

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.

### **C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING**

- (1) **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.

**(2) PPD 191/18 Rev.1 (F) Support to the Local Communities of the Mono Plain for the Promotion and Sustainable Management of Community Forests in Togo**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	102,983
ITTO Budget:	US\$	71,211
Government of Togo:	US\$	31,772

Implementing Agency:	<i>“LES AMIS DE L’ENVIRONNEMENT” ASSOCIATION (AMEN, civil society organisation) in collaboration with DIRECTORATE OF FOREST RESOURCES (DIRECTION DES RESSOURCES FORESTIÈRES–DRF)</i>	
Period of Approval:	September 2018	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 10 months	

This 10-month pre-project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54<sup>th</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.

This pre-project aims to draw a baseline study of Ecological Zone III in Togo in order to prepare a Project Document for the conservation and sustainable management of natural plant formations in the Mono Plain, Togo. The overarching concept behind this initiative is to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts resulting from the destruction of the ecosystems in this area and to help improve the living conditions of beneficiary communities. The main outputs will be: (i) data from forest, socio-economic, legal and environmental surveys on the project are available; (ii) a support strategy and project for promoting community forests and forest sustainable management among local communities in Togo are developed for submission to the ITTO.

The development of this project is justified by the lack of data due to the outdated nature of existing studies on the area coupled with the non-availability of national expertise and the lack of material and financial resources. These shortcomings are major constraints for any direct formulation of a full project proposal. It should be noted that this pre-project proposal was approved by ITTO during the 48th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (Decision 1) in 2012 under ID number PPD 151/11 Rev.3 (F). The project was thereafter lapsed due to the absence of funding. The project proposal was updated by Togo for new submission.

**(3) PPD 192/18 Rev.1 (F) Formulation of A Project Proposal on “Strengthening Forest Research to Improve the Efficient Use of Timber and The Conservation and Sustainable Development of Forests in Guatemala” (Guatemala)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	140,786
ITTO Budget:	US\$	99,913
Government of Guatemala:	US\$	40,873

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE – INAB

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

This pre-project stems from the need to ensure that the National Forest Institute - INAB, as a competent public authority responsible for the forest sector, can achieve its mandate as established by the Forestry Law of Guatemala. The specific objective is to formulate a full project proposal that will analyze forest management research and development problems in Guatemala with the participation of primary stakeholders and target populations of the country's forest sector to introduce changes in practices, conditions, attitudes and use of resources to improve efficient timber utilization and sustainable forest development. The implementation of the proposal to be derived from this pre-project will help respond to the need to develop forest research at the national level and support the improvement of forest management, efficient wood utilization and the competitiveness of timber products, as well as increasing the capacity to conserve and enhance other forest values within a tropical forest management and conservation context.

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