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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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A total of fourteen (14) approved projects and two (2) BWP project-based activities are currently under implementation. There are three (3) projects awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are twelve (12) approved projects and pre-projects still awaiting full financing. In this report, the projects are grouped into five categories:

A. Projects and Pre-projects in Implementation;
B. Projects and Pre-projects Pending Final Financial Audit;
C. BWP Project-based Activities in Implementation;
D. Projects, Pre-projects, and BWP Project-based Activities Awaiting Implementation Agreement; and
E. Projects and Pre-projects Awaiting Financing

A. PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS IN IMPLEMENTATION

(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:	March 2020 / 36 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 31 May 2023 (NOL F22-0037) Second Extension until 30 November 2023 (NOL F23-0022)

Revision 3 of the project document with an adjusted budget was approved in March 2017. Financing was secured in the same year. The project agreement was duly signed in February 2019, and project implementation commenced in March 2020.

The project aims to enhance sustainable forest management practices through improved community livelihoods and social stability. Specifically, it seeks to establish a model for community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment to support community forest management (CFM) initiatives, including payment for ecosystem services (PES) and REDD+, while increasing landowners' understanding of the goods and services provided by their forests. Project activities were implemented in collaboration with 6 partners.

The project has delivered four specific outputs: i) participatory data collection technology for improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; ii) clan groups participating in the National Land Development Program; iii) a data management system engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and iv) policy and planning guidelines for CFM in place.

All activities have been completed, and a completion report was submitted to the Secretariat in May 2024. The project developed a "Community Foresters Tool Kit" containing all materials developed including data collection forms, training and awareness resources and technical reports. The tool kit is available at www.pip.com.pg/resources/community-foresters-tool-kit/welcome.html. Communication products have been placed in a common drive for stakeholders' use at https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WarSK9TTLx5muvj6N6MLEEeffNOyf3Tn?usp=sharing. Other reports and materials produced under the project, including a TFU article are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PD764_14-Rev.3-F.

Due to a lack of response by the executing agency to several reminders on the submission of the project final audit, on 2 June 2025, ITTO issued an official letter informing Papua New Guinea Forest Authority that the project will be recommended for termination at ITTC-61 based on violation of article 5.03 of the project agreement. The executing agency submitted a financial audit report for the period of 1 January 2023 to 19 April 2024 on 28 August 2025, which was reviewed by the ITTO Secretariat and found unsatisfactory, thus, the Secretariat recommended the termination of this project at the 59th session of the Committee on Forest Management. At the same session the delegation of Japan requested the Secretariat to continue working with the executing agency on the submission of a satisfactory final audit report.

In February 2026, the ITTO Executive Director and other staff members held a meeting with officials from the Embassy of Papua New Guinea in Japan to discuss on the submission of a satisfactory final audit report, which was followed by several communications with the executing agency. In July 2026, the executing agency informed ITTO on the engagement of an audit firm, however at the time of preparation of this report, no final financial audit report has been submitted, despite reminders from the Secretariat. Due to the lack of responsiveness from the executing agency, the Secretariat would like to recommend the termination of this project.

(2) PD 903/19 Rev.3 (F) Management of Sungai Menyang Conservation Area for Orangutan Protection and Uplifting Community Livelihood, Sarawak, Malaysia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	441,904
ITTO Budget:			US$	261,904
Government of USA:	US$	140,000		
Government of Australia:	US$	121,904		
Government of Malaysia:			US$	180,000

Implementing Agency:	FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK
Period of Approval:	March 2024
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2025 / 18 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 31 March 2027 (NOL F.26-0015)

The project was approved in October 2020 and received partial funding of USD 121,903.50 from the Government of Australia in June 2022, with the remainder provided by the Government of the United States of America (USD 140,000) in November 2023. The implementing agency revised the project document based on the available funds, which was approved in March 2024. The project agreement was duly signed in September 2024, and the first instalment was executed in early April 2025, marking the commencement of project activities.

The project's specific objective is to improve community livelihood through sustainable use of forests and biological resources, to be achieved through three outputs.

Output 1, "To study and secure forest resource base for integrated management planning", is ongoing. Stakeholder engagement took place July–August 2025, involving communities, timber companies and an NGOs working in the project area. Inputs were gathered to update basic data of the status of the Sungai Menyang Conservation Area in southwestern Sarawak, including an update of the number of communities, longhouses and families living in the project area (8 longhouses comprising 121 families and 800 habitants). Camera traps were set up in the first year in the communities of Ng. Delok, Ng. Tapang Pungga, Menyang Teah; retrieval of the cameras in April 2026 confirmed orangutan presence in Ng. Delok & Ng. Tapang Pungga. Activities under this output have recommended a series of short and -long term actions for conservation for improved management of the conservation area.

Output 2, "To initiate the process for effective ecosystem management and resource development", is also ongoing. Potential income-generating activities were identified through field works carried out in December 2025, including coffee farming and improved skills for marketing and sales of handicrafts, which was followed by a workshop on women's empowerment in May 2026. A workshop for standardizing orangutan observation and hiking Trails at Ng. Tapang Pungga and Ng. Delok was held in May 2026 with potential conservation areas identified and to be marked and signalized for hiking trials, and buffer zones restored.

Output 3, "To enhance community participation in eco-tourism with improved facilities and training", is also ongoing. Training workshops on ecotourism, introduction to homestay management and community consultations were carried out in May 2026 at Rh. Gupie, Ng. Delok, which identified potential infrastructure improvements and capacity building to be carried out later by the project.

At the time of preparation of this report, the executing agency informed ITTO that there are some challenges in accessing and transporting goods to the project area due to an extended drought and low water levels in the river, nonetheless, no other challenges are foreseeing and it is expected to complete project activities within the approved extension and budget.

Technical reports and promotional materials produced by the project as up to date are available on ITTO's project search at www.itto.int/project/id/PD903_19-Rev.3-F.

(3) PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) Phase II — Providing Support for the Sustainable Management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in the Savanna Region in Togo - Phase II

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	366,493.00
ITTO Budget:			US$	282,624.16
Government of Japan:	US$	232,624.00		
Government of USA:	US$	50,000.00		
Government of Togo:			US$	83,868.45

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

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in March 2023

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 18 months

The Fosse-aux-Lions gazetted forest was once a superb reserve for fauna and flora. However, because of the socio-political unrest that Togo experienced during the 1990s, the gazetted forest, as most of the protected areas, has been invaded and devastated by local people, thereby questioning the non-participatory, unilateral management processes applied by the Forest Administration since the colonial era. Over the decades this has led to significant changes, particularly in relation to the degradation of forest resources, biodiversity, uncontrolled exploitation and worsening impoverishment of local populations.

To reverse this trend, the Agency for Forest Development and Use (Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts— ODEF) has developed this project proposal which aims at the sustainable management of the Fosse-aux-Lions gazetted forest by identifying and marking out consensus-based boundaries, establishing an operational framework of consultation between the stakeholders and the Forest Administration, promoting income-generating activities (IGAs), providing training to stakeholders in good practices for land use, creating areas for grazing and forage, educating local people in forestry regulations, and promoting the fuelwood sector to contribute to improving the living conditions of the populations concerned

The first approval of this 36-month project was in September 2019 through the electronic approval system for the project cycle of 2019. The project was partially financed with an amount of US$200,000 thanks to the generous contribution of Japan during the inter-session period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59. As the project was partially funded, it was revised into a phased project, which was approved in March 2023, with the Phase 1 to be implemented with the abovementioned amount. The Project Agreement governing Phase 1 of the project PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) had been signed by all parties in May 2023. Phase II of the project PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) was partially funded by the government of USA, which pledged USD50,000 during the Sixtieth Session of the Council in December 2024.

The overall aim of the project is to improve the living conditions of the population of the prefecture of Tône and Tandjoaré through the sustainable management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest. This project specifically aims at sustainably managing the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in to improve the living conditions and environment of local populations.

Phase II of the project PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) will commence its implementation, following the completion of Phase I (to be reported as fully completed if the final financial audit report is satisfactory).

(4) PD 916/21 Rev.2 (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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	599,582
ITTO Budget:			US$	450,000
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US$	200,000		
Government of USA	US$	250,000		
Government of Colombia – University of Tolima:			US$	102,152
Community Council of the Bajo Calima Black Ethnic Group:			US$	47,430

Implementing Agency: UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA - COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE BAJO CALIMA BLACK ETHNIC GROUP

Collaborating Agency:	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Period of Approval:	Rev.2: Approved in March 2023
Starting Date and Duration:	November 2024 / 24 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 31 August 2027 (NOL F.26-0035)

The first approval of this project was in September 2019. The project was partially financed with an amount of USD 200,000 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan during the inter-sessional period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59, and the amount of USD 250,000 secured from the Government of the United States of America in two tranches (USD 150,000 at ITTC 57 and USD 100,000 at ITTC 58). As the project was partially funded, with the amount of US$450,000 out of US$578,185, it was revised to adjust the ITTO budget to the available funds. The revised project was approved in March 2023 and was divided into two stages based on the characteristics of funding received:

- Phase 1 of 12 months with the ITTO budget of USD 200,000 from the Japan's supplementary budget, which was duly completed on 30 June 2025, with a subsequent presentation by a representative of the executing agency during ITTC-61.
- Phase 2 of 12 months with the ITTO budget of USD 250,000 from other donors through ITTO project regular cycle, with continuous implementation after completion of the phase funded by the Government of Japan.

The project aims to launch a participatory process to raise the living standards of the Afro-descendant communities with a gender focus to achieve sustainable management of secondary natural forests and collective lands in Bajo Calima.

The project agreement was duly signed in August 2024, and the first disbursement of funds was done in November 2024.

At the time of drafting this report the following progress can be reported:

Output 1, "Agroforestry systems and secondary forest enrichment lines established under pilot plots", has been achieved. Thirty-five hectares of enrichment plots were established with 8,000 seedlings of ten species selected by the communities. More agroforestry systems are expected to be established in stage 2 with a focus on *food forests*.

Output 2, "Training of community leaders and farmers on community forest management and sustainable use of natural resources". Has been achieved, during the stage funded by the Japanese Government. Training materials were developed and used in 15 training workshops, increasing the capacity of 50 teachers, 40 forest producers and 25 community leaders. Sixty-six percent of trainees were women. Training will continue in the next stage with focus on grass roots.

Output 3, "Action-oriented research programme designed and implemented", is ongoing. Four experimental blocks have been established. Students from the faculty of forest have been engaged and will conduct research within the established experimental plots.

At the time of preparation of this report, the executing agency and the country focal point informed ITTO that the project area was severely damaged by the August 2026 earthquake, which could impact implementation of project activities.

Reports and promotional material produced by the project as of today are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD916_21-Rev.2-F.

(5) PD 927/22 Rev.2 (F) Development of an Information System on the Potential of Wood and Carbon to Support Sustainable Forest Management in South Kalimantan, Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	268,320
ITTO Budget:			US$	233,300
Government of USA:	US$	150,300		
Government of Australia:	US$	83,000		
Government of South Kalimantan:			US$	35,020

Implementing Agency: Regional Planning Board of South Kalimantan (BAPPEDA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia

Period of Approval: August 2023

Starting Date and Duration: August 2024 / 30 months

The project, originated from the concept note (CN-21002/CN-523), obtained approval through the online no-objection procedures in August 2023. The project aims to enhance the planning and monitoring sustainable forest management practices in South Kalimantan, Indonesia. Specifically, the project is to establish a comprehensive information and database system on wood production potential and carbon emission/sequestration to facilitate decision-making, identify opportunities and monitor the progress of sustainable forest management in South Kalimantan. The development of a robust information system on the potential of wood production and carbon sequestration is crucial for advancing sustainable forest management in South Kalimantan, where the timber industry is important for economic growth, value-added products, and export potential. This system will play an important role to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, leading to more sustainable forest management practices. This could also lead to the development of new forest-based industries, job creation, and income generation for local communities.

To ensure the effective achievement of sustainable forest management in South Kalimantan, the project seeks to delivering three outputs:

1) Strengthening the data and information collection system to assess changes in forest cover, forest growth, carbon stocks, wood production, and social information as a solid foundation for sustainable forest management.
2) Improving the wood and carbon information systems to support decision-making tools and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress towards achieving sustainable forest management goals.
3) Enhancing the coordination of SFM policy information network systems with engagement of forest managers, policymakers, local communities, academics and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate the dissemination of essential information and engagement of key stakeholders in sustainable forest management processes.

The signing process of the Project Agreement was completed in July 2024 whereas the 1st installment of the project budget to the Executing Agency was completed in August 2024. Until the reporting period, the project has made the following progress:

The project has advanced with its Activity 1.1 under Output 1, involving the establishment of the Community Information Care Group (IAC). Disseminating the activity's final results and conducting training for community-based information for on-site data updates are the remaining sub-activities. In Activity 1.2, the performance of the current PSPs will be evaluated, and six PSPs will be rebuilt using a thorough assessment of forest cover, growth, carbon stocks, wood production, and social data. The sub-activities, which include training in database processing and the construction of data and information systems, are still halfway through.

There hasn't been any notable advancement under Output 2. While the other activity to conduct consultation with key stakeholders and policy brief formulation on the wood and carbon information system have not yet begun, Activity 2.1 has been started to improve the wood and carbon information systems with follow-up surveys for the systematic monitoring and reporting of SFM at the FMU level.

All activities listed under Output 3 have not been started.

The rearrangement of the PD 927/22 project bank account from the provincial bank to the national banking system is causing some implementation delays for the project. As the executing agency (EA), the Directorate General of Forestry Planning, Ministry of Forestry, requested that the PD 927/22 project's financial system be aligned with the Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Finance's financial system. Strong support from the Ministry of Forestry and the South Kalimantan Regional Government, along with effective cooperation with pertinent parties, allowed some project activities to move forward while awaiting permission of a new bank account.

The Executing Agency has submitted to the Secretariat in August 2026 a project progress report covering activities to June 2026 which is available on request (English only).

(6) PD 931/23 (F) Promoting SFM and Local Wood Consumption through Capacity Building and Improving Regulation in the North Zone, Costa Rica

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	198,260
ITTO Budget:			US$	138,260
Government of Korea:	US$	138,370		
CODEFORSA:			US$	60,000

Implementing Agency: San Carlos Forestry Development Commission Association (CODEFORSA)

Period of Approval: August 2023

Starting Date and Duration: January 2024 / 24 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 28 February 2026 (NOL F.26-0002)

The project derived from the concept note CN-21005 which received an expression of interest by the Republic Korea at ITTC 58 in November 2022. The project document was approved in August 2023, the project agreement was duly signed in November 2024, and the project commenced implementation in January 2024 with the first disbursement of funds.

The project's specific objective is the promotion of sustainable forest management through capacity development of forest owners, improved regulations and procedures, and increased demand for local wood.

The executing agency submitted a completion report on project activities in June 2026, with outputs achieved as follows:

Output 1 "Strengthen the knowledge of SFM of owners, Maleku territory and public officials: a personalized forest management pilot plan will be developed in five units", was achieved. The project assisted with the formulation of five sustainable forest management plans which were submitted for approval of the competent authorities—a major challenge reported was a lengthy processing by the authorities of the submitted management plans, while a noteworthy impact was that through the implementation of one of the forest management plans, a smallholder was able to pay its debt and keep its farm. A sylvicultural assessment was conducted for 86 hectares in the indigenous Maleku territory, which identified the presence of 93 species of trees. Two technical sheets were also developed, one on the sustainable management of primary forest in the Huetar Norte region and other on profitability of SFM.

Output 2 "Improving regulation, procedures and historical records", was achieved. The project promoted dialogue and training within the authorities responsible for processing forest management plans and other stakeholders, which in turn, provided an overview of the current regulations and procedures, as well as recommendations to improve their approvals, which were published as a technical report in September 2025. A guide to unify regulations, formalities and government approvals under Costa Rica's National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) was published in 2025, along with an infographic on basic considerations for marketing and selling locally produced timber. Under this output, the project also updated the records of approved forest management plans in the region for the last 15 years.

Output 3, "Enhancing owner's capabilities in SFM and marketing" was achieved. The project conducted, desk research, field surveys and interviews with primary processing industries, which lead to the release in 2025 of the publication *Conditions by the primary processing industry to accept wood coming from forest in the Huetar Norte region, Costa Rica*. Training events based on the material produced were conducted in late 2025 to stakeholders in the region, along with an awareness raising event for general audiences on the importance of sustainable wood use.

Output 4, "Promoting consumption of local timber- campaigns will be launched to boost the demand for wood produced in local SFM units", was achieved. The project released a study on the profitability of sustainable forest management along with an analysis on the potential implementation of a regional forest certification programme in late 2025. A social media marketing campaign promoting sustainable wood use was implemented along with the release of various types of promotional material to be used in traditional media. The project also conducted a day in the field to further raise local awareness of the importance of SFM.

Activities related to the establishment of agreements with state institutions to promote the use of wood in their tenders could not be implemented due to the bureaucracy of government institutions in their procurement procedures. Instead, the project organized a workshop with the University of Costa Rica to promote sustainable wood use in construction which had the participation of various architects in this field.

At the time of preparation of this report, the ITTO Secretariat was working with the executing agency for the preparation of the project's final financial audit.

Reports and promotional material produced by the project as of today are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD931_23-F.

(7) PD 936/24 Rev.2 (F) Protection and Restoration of Forest Landscapes to Strengthen Water Security and Climate Change Adaptation in the Upper Salinas River Watershed (Guatemala)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	404,841
ITTO Budget:			US$	266,666
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US$	266,666		
Water for People:			US$	63,900
INAB & Local Municipal Councils:			US$	74,275

Implementing Agency: WATER FOR PEOPLE (WFP)

Collaborating Agency: GUATEMALA'S NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB) AND LOCAL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

Period of Approval: Rev.2: Approved in March 2026

Starting Date and Duration: May 2026 / 24 months

The project was funded in March 2026 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan from its emergency funding budget. The project agreement was signed in April 2026; a launching ceremony took place in the project area in May 2026 with the participation of local, regional and national authorities, as well as with the presence of His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan to Guatemala and a recorded message from ITTO headquarters. The first instalment was also released in May 2026.

The project intends to restore and increase forest cover over 150 hectares located in areas of high water-recharge significance in the Salinas River watershed. Progress at the time of preparation of this report is as follows.

Output 1, "One-hundred and fifty hectares of forests in high to very high-water recharge areas are under conservation and restoration", is ongoing. The project has identified, prioritized, validated and mapped the areas that will be subject to restoration and conservation under the project with the publication of the corresponding report. The executing agency has socialized the report with participating municipalities and communities. Acquisition of materials for the establishment of nurseries was also carried out.

Output 2, "Forty surface and ground water sources used by the population for human consumption are protected and monitored in terms of water quantity and quality, and a sustainability strategy has been developed to promote adequate water supply in terms of both quantity and quality", is ongoing. Through desk work and field visits, the water sources used for human consumption have been categorized and verified.

Output 3, "Two Municipal Water and Sanitation Offices (OMAS-DIMAS), 2 Municipal Forest Offices (OFM) and 1 Sub-regional Directorate of INAB have been strengthened with equipment and inputs to enable them to carry out efficient water and forest resource management in their municipalities", is ongoing. The approval for the procurement of most of the equipment has been obtained.

Output 4, "Systematization for the identification of areas with potential for the establishment of compensation mechanisms for water environmental services to help strengthen governance and ensure water resource sustainability in the target area", is ongoing. Through interinstitutional coordination a preliminary identification of sites for the establishment of compensation mechanisms for water environmental services has been carried out.

Reports and promotional material produced by the project as of today are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD936_24-Rev.2-F.

(8) PD 945/25 (F) Emergency Actions to Secure Forest Conservation and Livelihoods of Traditional Communities in the Brazilian Federal Conservation Unit Verde Para Sempre (Brazil)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	294,475
ITTO Budget:			US$	149,877
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US$	149,877		
Government of Brazil:			US$	144,598

Implementing Agency:	EMPRESA BRASILEIRA DE PESQUISA AGROPECUARIA AMAZONIA ORIENTAL (EMBRAPA)
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2025 / 12 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 30 November 2026 (MOFA-Japan's letter of 17 March 2026 and ITTO's letter L.25-0311)

The project aims to support traditional communities and civil society—in cooperation with government entities—in the protection of a significant area of tropical rain forest in the Brazilian Amazon. The unit Verde para Sempre is being threatened by increasing illegal logging activities and man-made fires. The intent is to increase presence of stakeholders in the conservation unit by upgrading logistics, improving monitoring, enhancing community organizational skills and communications, and increasing the understanding of sustainability.

The project was funded in April 2024 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan from its emergency funding budget. The project agreement was signed in June 2025, and the first instalment of funds was done on 29 July 2025 after satisfactory submission of the project inception report, marking the commencement of the project. Progress is as follows:

Output 1, "Managed forests are being monitored and protected against uncontrolled fires and illegal logging", has a progress of about 90%. Procurement of identified equipment for enhancing infrastructure and monitoring is in progress. At the end of August 2026, one drone, GPS, and satellite internet antennas have been acquired to benefit remote communities in urgent need of communication, while a laptop and the nautical vessel for forest monitoring are expected to be delivered in October 2026.

Field training on GPS and drone operation was conducted in December 2025 for 8 forest managers from 7 communities and one technician, while training in forest monitoring was conducted in March 2026 in the community of Itapeua for the same participants covering the following curricula:

1. Fundamentals: types of drones and sensors used in forestry;
2. Legislation: compliance with regulations and operational safety;
3. Piloting: practical flight training and emergency procedures;
4. Maintenance: equipment care and battery management in tropical environments;
5. Flight planning: defining routes, speed, angle of view, and image overlap for mapping;
6. Image analysis software: photo processing and analysis using relevant software;

7. Forest mapping: techniques for monitoring clearings, roads, landings, degraded areas, burned areas, encroachments, among others.

Output 2, "Sound coordination and communication within communities and among institutional partners", reports 100% completion of activities. Training in cooperativism, youth empowerment, gender equality and legal assistance, as well as, dissemination of accurate information about conservation units and sustainable forest management were carried out in parallel, based on feedback obtained prior implementation from community leaders, the Association of Rural and Urban Women—"Emanuela" in Porto de Moz, the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio), and the International Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB). These organizations were partners in the implementation of these activities, which were conducted in March and May 2026. The activities enhanced women and youth capacities in communication, use of information technology, ecological restoration, agroforestry and social inclusion. A women's march was also organized in conjunction with project activities on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March). A notable impact is that community women continue to meet spontaneously on several occasions on an online platform.

In addition, the project has participated at various fora at national and international level in 2025 and 2026, notably, at four side events during UNFCCC COP 30 in the green and blue zones, as well as in the AgriZone.

Reports and promotional material produced by the project as of today are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD945_25-F.

(9) PD 953/26 (F) Building Resilience Capacity on Community-based Forest Fire Management in Siem Reap Province (Cambodia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	282,866
ITTO Budget:			US$	266,666
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US$	266,666		
Government of Cambodia (in-kind)			US$	16,200

Implementing Agency: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FOREST AND WILDLIFE (FOREST ADMINISTRATION OF CAMBODIA)

Period of Approval: March 2026

Starting Date and Duration: June 2026 / 24 months

The Specific Objective of the project is "To improve local livelihood and build capacity on enhancing resilience for community-based forest fire management through forest fire vulnerability assessment, public awareness raising, and restoration of degraded community forests in Siem Reap Province of Cambodia." The project is designed to respond to the urgency contributing to reduce and prevent forest fire in order to protect and conserve biodiversity and economic recovery for forest ecosystems, but it also improves public health affected by forest fire, and ultimately to accomplish climate change adaptation and mitigation targets set forth in the Updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Cambodia.

The project also intends to make advantage of prior forest fire experiences and information. The project's expected outputs are: 1) Community-based forest fire management is improved by increasing stakeholders' capacity to assess forest fire vulnerability, raise public awareness, and restore degraded

community forests; and 2) Local livelihood is improved to help reduce forest fires and promote sustainable forest management for community forests in Cambodia's Siem Reap Province.

The activities implemented during the reporting period from 1st June 2026 to 31st August 2026 complied with the original Workplan activities described in the Project Document, as follows:

- On August 24, 2026, in collaboration with the Siem Reap Forest Administration Cantonment, organized a tree planting event with a total of 12,996 native and fast-growing tree saplings. The team also inspected a 50m x 50m pond with a depth of 4m—provided by the project to store water for local community needs—located in the Khnarch Koul Community Forest, Varin Village, Varin Commune, Varin District, Siem Reap Province. The event brought together 225 participants (including 168 women), mostly local people.
- On August 25, 2026, in collaboration with the Siem Reap Forest Administration Cantonment, planted approximately 4,500 saplings—consisting of native and fast-growing tree species. The event was attended by 187 participants (including 98 women), most local people.
- On 26 August 2026, the 1st PSC meeting was held in Siem Reap with the objectives to oversee progress in project implementation in light of the logframe of the project, review workplan and budget, and evaluating any significant changes in the budget as well as proposed activities. The meeting was presided over by Mr. Chheang Dany, Deputy Director General, representing Director General of the General Directorate of Forestry and Wildlife.
- The project undertook an assessment on building capacity on forest fire vulnerability. The main criteria set forth for selection of community forestry as project sites are: 1) facing forest fires frequently or yearly, 2) land is available for digging up a pond, and 3) adopting and accepting project interventions. The consultant conducted an assessment on forest fire vulnerability, and a technical report has already been produced and is under review. Community forests (CFs) were screened, and only three CFs were selected out of the 62 CFs in Siem Reap province, namely: Totung Thngai in Svay Leu District, Khnarch Koul in Varin District, and Ou Tuek Chenh in Srei Snam District.
- A project national consultant assessed the forest degradation in Siem Reap province with categories from slightly to critically degraded levels. The technical report is under compilation. The project identified 40 hectares of community degraded forest targeted for planting with fire resistant tree species.
- Two artificial ponds for multiple uses and forest fire suppression were constructed in two selected CFs.
- The project is carrying out a study on local livelihood enhancement to contribute to forest fire prevention. A questionnaire was developed, and a survey team was trained to conduct data collection for a study on local livelihood enhancement that contributes to forest fire prevention in three selected CFs. There were 92 samples randomly selected for individual interviews along with three focused group discussion (FGDs). In addition, data entry was completed, and the technical report is under compilation.

Reports and promotional material produced by the project as of today are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD953_26-F

(10) PD 955/26 (F) Promotion of the Conservation and Forest Management of the Forests of Northwestern Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	358,029.00
ITTO Budget:			US$	233,333.00
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US$	233,333.00		
AIDER			US$	124,696.00

Implementing Agency:	ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AIDER)
Collaborating Agency:	NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERFOR), MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IRRIGATION – MIDAGRI
Period of Approval:	March 2026
Starting Date and Duration:	June 2026 / 10 months

Northwestern Peru faces several environmental challenges, including the low valuation of forest resources and ecosystem services, and weak governance, which restricts the generation on valuable information on forest resources and biodiversity, as well as the capacity of local communities to sustainably use them. A limited range of forest products leads to poor forest management, hindering development and forest investment, negatively impacting the quality of life for smallholders in northwestern Peru.

The project aims at increasing the contribution of forestry to the economies of small-scale farmers by systematizing and disseminating knowledge on sustainable forest management, landscape restoration, traditional knowledge; application of market intelligence; improving capacity among stakeholders and promoting coordination among private and public actors.

The project was funded in March 2026 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan from its emergency funding budget. The project agreement was signed in April 2026, and the first instalment was done in the same month. Progress is reported as follows:

Output 1, “Forest resources and environmental services valued at the socioeconomic level and incorporated into the household economy” is ongoing. The desk study on traditional knowledge of the use of forest species in the forests of northwestern Peru with marketing potential, and the diagnosis of training needs have been completed.

Output 2, “Strengthened governance in forest management, conservation and restoration”, is ongoing. The project has been promoting dialogue in the area of influence with the Regional Environment Commission and the regional office of Peru’s National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR). The executing agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding with National Agricultural Health Service of Peru (SENASA) in May 2026 with the aim of enhancing technical capacity of smallholders in the province of Piura.

A symposium on sustainable management and conservation of dry forest was organized in May 2026 in the city of Tumbes with the attendance of approximately one-hundred participants. Topics covered in the event include regulatory framework for forest management; ecosystem services; agroforestry systems as an approach to the sustainable management of tropical dry forests; sustainable use of non-timber forest products; a case study on forest restoration; conservation and restoration initiatives in the province of Tumbes.

Many other project activities are ongoing. The executing agency reported delays in the implementation of activities that require the engagement of government authorities due to elections and transition of the new administration, nonetheless, it is expected that activities will continue once new authorities settle.

Reports and promotional material produced by the project as of today are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD955_26-F.

B. PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS PENDING FINAL FINANCIAL AUDIT

(1) PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) Conservation of African Barwood (*Pterocarpus Erinaceus Poir)* in the Gazetted Forests of La Palee and Boundiali in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of Local Communities - Phase I

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US$	828,718
ITTO Budget:		US$	566,488
Government of Japan:	US$ 320,000		
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:		US$	262,230

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES FORÊTS—SODEFOR)

Period of Approval: Rev.5: Approved in March 2023

Starting Date and Duration: December 2023 / 24 months (for Phase I)

I. Introduction

The gazetted forests of La Palée and Boundiali which are the subject of this project are in the Northern Area of Côte d'Ivoire, more specifically in the Bagoué Region with Boundiali as regional capital. The project area is full of young people who are jobless school dropouts or demobilized from the military.

Forests of the North of the country used to have large stands of African barwood. This is the original distribution area for this timber species. However, nowadays this species is threatened with extinction. The main causes of this threat are the overexploitation of the tree species, its low rate of regeneration and repeated bushfires within the landscape.

Overexploitation of the species (*Pterocarpus erinaceus* Poir)

The selective removal of certain high-quality timber species poses a serious threat to the country's plant genetic resources. African barwood is a forest tree species found essentially in the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, beyond the 8th parallel, where the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has banned forest logging. Because of its high value, African barwood is heavily used, both by forest logging operators and local communities.

Logging interests have turned to African barwood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus* Poir), locally known as *vêne, as* forest tree species found in natural forests and used for reforestation have been depleted.

African barwood (*Pterocarpus erinaceus* Poir) is therefore in strong demand and the transport of truckloads of illegal *P. erinaceus* timber products is in constant increase. Because of its technological qualities, African barwood features among the best timber species in West Africa and it is highly sought for cabinet-making, heavy carpentry and exterior joinery work (Duvall, 2008). In addition, African barwood is used for its various non-timber products, including animal fodder (Petit et Mallet, 2001), medicinal products and raw materials for craftwork (tannins, sap, resin, etc.).

II. Project Objective

Development objective: "To contribute to the sustainable management of African barwood ecosystems in Côte d'Ivoire in the Bagoué Region" through:

- the decrease in the degradation rate of African barwood ecosystems
- the increase of the land areas reforested with African barwood in the Boundiali and Korhogo Prefectures.

Specific objective: “To conserve African barwood within the La Palée and Boundiali gazetted forests, in the Bagoué region, Northern Côte d’Ivoire” through:

- the implementation of trials and experimental studies based on the establishment of a 0.5 ha rootstock orchard and a 1 ha clone orchard;
- the establishment of African barwood forest plots over **180 ha** in both gazetted forests;
- the establishment of fuelwood plots over 50 ha in both gazetted forests;

the organization of bushfire surveillance patrols by four surveillance committees

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Since the beginning of the project implementation and in accordance with the project’s most recent progress report and monthly highlights regularly submitted by the executing agency, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

Activity 1.1: Ethnobotanical survey on traditional knowledge:
Inventory of 865 trees and identification of "plus trees" in the two forests between December 2 and 24, 2024. Collection of seeds and plant material for germination tests, as well as morphological characterization of the trees and soil analysis of their habitat. African barwood trees thrive in poorly developed soils Establishment of density and provenance trials to create mother-tree and clone orchards.

Activity 1.2: Conduct germination tests on African barwood:
Germination rates for African barwood seeds are higher when the seeds are coated; the tunnel (greenhouse) promotes germination and seedling development more effectively than the shade house, the soil substrate promotes seed germination and enhances development more than industrial substrates, the cutting test reveals that cuttings soaked in Aloe Vera gel show superior rates of budding, bud break, and leaf emergence. However, no cuttings produced roots, regardless of the substrate used.

Activity 1.3: Strengthening the capacity of SODEFOR staff –
Training of 20 SODEFOR staff members on:

- Criteria for identifying "elite" trees
- Proficiency in *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (African barwood) fruit collection and de-hulling techniques
- Techniques for producing *Pterocarpus erinaceus* seedlings from seed in nurseries

Activity 2.1: Conduct Information, Education, and Communication campaigns on sustainable management practices.
Raising awareness among 9 riverside villages regarding the preservation of African barwood woodland. Four (4) training sessions organized for 250 households on the construction and use of improved cookstoves. Construction of 120 improved cookstoves and replication of training—with mothers who were trained passing on their skills to their daughters—to expand the production and use of improved cookstoves.

Activity 2.2: Organize consultation meetings among stakeholders
Five (5) consultation meetings were held. Three steering committee meetings were held in Korhogo: - September 25, 2024 - October 1, 2025 - July 17, 2026

Activity 3.1: Raise public awareness regarding the risks of bushfires:
Sensitization meetings were organized in all the surrounding villages.

Activity 3.2: Strengthen fire monitoring and control:
Establishment of 5 trained and equipped bushfire monitoring and control committees

Activity 3.3: Promote firebreaks:
Training committees on the creation of firebreaks

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

By the end of the project, a total of 103 hectares had been planted in the La Palée classified forest. Awareness-raising activities targeting local communities helped increase their understanding of the importance of preserving classified forests and sustainably managing forest resources. Furthermore, local communities—and women in particular—received training on how to make and use improved cookstoves. All planned activities were carried out, despite some adjustments to the initial schedule due to operational and financial constraints encountered during implementation. Overall, the human, material, and financial resources mobilized made it possible to meet the set objectives and achieve satisfactory results. The project's achievements, driven by SODEFOR's commitment and the buy-in of beneficiary communities, offer promising prospects for sustaining the initiatives undertaken and ensuring the long-term preservation of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Vène) wood in the La Palée and Boundiali classified forests.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

At the end of the project's first phase, the following lessons have emerged:

• Regarding local community involvement:
- Enthusiasm among local populations for the implementation of forestry activities;
- Strengthened social cohesion, evidenced by the integration of several communities, particularly the village community of Guinguéréni;
- Effective organization of groups and monitoring committees;
- Adoption of improved cookstove manufacturing and usage techniques by households;

• Regarding research on *Pterocarpus erinaceus* (Vène wood):
- Good knowledge of the species among populations living near the Palée and Boundiali classified forests;
- Distribution of *Pterocarpus erinaceus* trees within the classified forests studied linked to edaphic conditions;
- Identification of three morphotypes, one of which produces superior-quality wood;
- Improved germination rates through mycorrhization and the use of polytunnels;
- Mastery of seedling production from *Pterocarpus erinaceus* seeds by SODEFOR agents.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The ITTO Secretariat has received the first draft of the completion report and four technical reports, the final financial audit report is ongoing,

(2) PD 934/23 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening the Conservation of the Critically Endangered Rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*) in Dakrong Nature Reserve and Dong Nai Conservation Landscape, Vietnam

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	160,826
ITTO Budget:			US$	148,976
Government of Australia:	US$	100,000		
Government of USA:	US$	48,976		
CCD:			US$	11,850

Implementing Agency: CENTER FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

Period of Approval: October 2023

Starting Date and Duration: April 2024 / 24 months

I. Introduction

The project, originated from the concept note (CN-21007), received approval through the online no-objection procedures in October 2023. In terms of funding, the project secured US$48,976 from the USA in October 2022 and an additional US$100,000 from Australia in June 2023. The project has been officially started since April 2024.

II. Project Objective

The Development Objective of the project is to contribute to the long-term conservation of the threatened rosewood species in Vietnam through the effective mobilization of local community participation in the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of *Dalbergia oliveri* and *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* populations in Dakrong NR and Dong Nai conservation landscape. The Specific Objective is to initiate a participatory process of restoration of rosewood populations through conserving and replanting *D. oliveri* and *D. cochinchinensis* in Dakrong NR and Dong Nai conservation landscape.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

All outputs were successfully achieved.

Under the Activity 1.1, the project team conducted two field surveys on the population distribution, abundance to map the key population and mature trees of *D. cochinchinensis* and *D. oliveri* in Dakrong NR and Dong Nai CNR. While *D. cochinchinensis* was found with very few saplings within the Dakrong NR, hundred mature trees are distributed outside of the natural forest, which are located in crop fields own by local community. In the Dong Nai CNR, a viable population of *D. oliveri* were found with mature individuals and many saplings and seedlings. Findings of the field survey in Dakrong NR were presented in technical meetings with relevant representatives of stakeholders.

In Activity 2.1, two training workshops on endangered plants conservation were organized for forest rangers and forestry technical staff of Quang Tri (including Huong Hoa and Dakrong FPD staff, forest rangers of Dakrong and Bac Huong Hoa NR, and technical staffs of Quang Tri SUF management board), Dong Nai (Dong Nai CNR, Tan Phu Protection Forest etc.) and Binh Phuoc province (now merged to Dong Nai province). The training topics focused on identifying some threatened plants in the field; survey and monitoring methods for threatened plants; sharing experience from plant conservation projects of CCD and Center for Plant Conservation (CPC); nursey establishment and maintenance; and developing a plant conservation project.

In Activity 2.2, we conducted training on nursery development and maintenance, nursery techniques and seedling production focusing on rosewood species for local communities of Ba Nang and Dakrong communes of Dakrong district (Quang Tri province) and forestry staff of Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc (now merged to Dong Nai province). After the training, some of them were engaged in nursery maintenance activities such as filling tree pots, transplanting individual seedlings from tree bed to pots, taking care of seedlings…

Under Activity 3.1, management and conservation plans for *D. cochinchinensis* in Quang Tri and *D. oliveri* in Dong Nai were drafted and presented at consultation meetings with the participation of representatives from Quang Tri and Dong Nai forestry authorities.

In the Activity 3.2, two nurseries were established in community land and have been maintained by local people of Dong Nai and Quang Tri provinces. The nursery in Dong Nai is producing at least 6000 seedlings of Dalbergia oliveri while as the one in Quang Tri is producing at least 2500 seedlings of *D. ochinchinensis*.

In order to implement the Activity 3.3, the project team in cooperated with Dong Nai CNR management board planted 5,000 seedlings of *D. oliveri* over 10 ha (average density 500 seedlings/ha) of degraded and encroachment land in the reserve. The remaining 1,000 seedlings in the nursery are being maintained by local people to reserve for beating up in upcoming years. In Quang Tri, 2,000 seedlings of *D. cochinchinensis* will be planted to 20 ha of degraded areas of community forests (average density 200 seedlings/ha) in middle August 2026 to enrich forest values and restore rosewood population in its natural range.

Under Acvitity 3.4, the Project applied assisted natural regeneration measures over 10 ha in Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve including herbaceous controlling and forest enrichment to support the growing of planted seedlings and natural regeneration of existing trees. In July 2026, local people in Quang Tri conducted herbaceous and liana controlling to support natural regeneration of *D. cochinchinensis* in the community forests and prepare for enrichment planting in the next month.

Mature trees of *D. oliveri* in Dong Nai and *D. cochinchinensis* in Quang Tri, which were identified from the field survey, have been monitoring by local people and technical staffs of Dong Nai and Quang Tri Protected areas under the Activity 3.5.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project aims to significantly enhance the long-term conservation of the threatened rosewood species in Vietnam by actively engaging local communities in the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of *D. oliveri* and *D. cochinchinensis* populations in Dakrong nature reserve and Dong Nai conservation landscape. The critically endangered Tamalan (*D. oliveri*) and Siamese rosewood (*D. cochinchinensis*) are currently among the most threatened plants in Vietnam. Due to high demand from trade and illegal logging for a long time, the wild populations of these two species have been reduced dramatically and are locally extinct in many known distribution areas. The remaining populations are small, fragmented, and mainly distributed in protected areas, but they lack effective conservation efforts.

This project outcomes achieved through building the capacity of forest rangers, protected areas personnel, and local communities in forest protection, the conservation of endangered plants, and sustainable forest management. It developed and implemented a comprehensive management and conservation plan for *D. oliveri* and *D. cochinchinensis*. Furthermore, it implemented measures to restore rosewood populations through natural regeneration and replanting in degraded habitats. The Government of Vietnam benefitted from the preservation and restoration of rosewood populations as well as capacity building of relevant personnel. The successful models developed during this project could be replicated in other protected areas and with other threatened plant species.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

Stakeholder engagement is important during the identification and design process of any project, as it ensures the project scope is well-suited to the local context. Joint discussions between the Project team and stakeholders effectively integrate diverse ideas, local knowledge, and technical expertise to address existing challenges, properly define Project objectives and interventions, as well as relevant stakeholder groups. Maintaining close communication, building trust-based relationships, and ensuring full transparency during implementation are essential when working with stakeholders, particularly local communities. These elements enhance strong local ownership and facilitate the active, long-term participation of community members in project activities.

In order to minimize variation between planned and actual implementation, project formulation should go beyond stakeholder engagement for problem, objective and intervention identification. It is critical to engage specialized experts, particularly for research-based activities, to establish reasonable operational schedules. Project design should avoid ambitious targets within compressed timeframe. Furthermore, explicit time buffers should be considered to accommodate uncontrollable external factors, specifically field

activities that are likely vulnerable to weather patterns, seasonal climate variability, and biological plant growth rates.

For conservation projects involving seedling propagation and replanting, the project start date and duration should be carefully considered to align with target plant phenology. For example, while this project officially commenced in April 2024, the seed collection window for *D. cochinchinensis* occurs between October to December. Consequently, the remaining timeframe was insufficient for nursery cultivation, seedling growth and reaching optimal seedling planting height, that led to the delay in project implementation. Moreover, the raining season (optimal for tree planting) in Central Vietnam, particularly in Quang Tri, runs from September to December, which fell outside the project timeframe.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The ITTO Secretariat has received project completion report, pending technical reports (expected to receive by the end of September 2026) and subject to final financial audit, thus the Committee may wish to declare the project as duly completed, subject to the satisfactory review of the final audit report by the ITTO Secretariat. Reports and outreach products produced by the project will be made available from the project search tool on the ITTO website at https://www.itto.int/project/id/PD934_23-Rev.1-F.

(3) PD 946/25 (F) Capacity Building for the Restoration of the SOTA GOUNGOUN Forest Complex and Climate Change Mitigation in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	276,300
ITTO Budget:			US$	225,000
Government of Japan	US$	225,000		
Government of Benin:			US$	51,300

Implementing Agency:	GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING (DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC)
Collaborating Agency:	INITIATIVE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE - IPV-NGO (INITIATIVE POUR LA PRÉSERVATION DE LA VIE – ONG-IPV)
Period of Approval:	February 2025
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2025 / 12 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 30 June 2026 (NOL F.26-0027)

I. Introduction

Located in northeastern Benin, the Sota-Goungoun Gazetted Forest Complex (GFC) has been gazetted since the 1940s, and covers an area of approximately 130,000 ha. The Sota-Goungoun GFC protects the watersheds of the Sota River and provide local populations with an extended range of products: animal proteins, agricultural land, timber and utility wood. In addition, local people harvest non-timber forest products such as mushrooms, vegetables and leaves (for packaging and the treatment of various diseases). Together with the W National Park, the Sota-Goungoun GFC serves as one of the last safeguards against desert progression and contribute to climate change impact mitigation. However, they are faced with increasingly serious issues pertaining to their integrity and protection, which have been exacerbated by the

recent insecurity threat. Farming, including first and foremost cotton crops; illegal logging, particularly of valuable forest species such as rosewood, *Afzelia*, *Isoberlinia* and *Khaya senegalensis*; Illegal logging operations have led to the degradation of the Sota-Goungoun GFC landscape, while at the same time providing a source of forest products for illegal trade in supply chains. As a result, forest plantations were abandoned whereas, if properly managed, they could be a source of local economic development based on the ecosystem services provided by the forest.

II. Project Objective

The project's development objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of the Sota-Goungoun GFC in northeastern Benin.

(i) improved forest governance and sustainable forest management, as measured based on decreased rate of illegal logging and poaching in the Sota-Goungoun GFC;
(ii) increased involvement of local communities in the sustainable management of the Sota-Goungoun GFC, as measured based on the active involvement of co-management structures in forest protection activities;
(iii) increased resilience of local communities to climate change, as measured based on the increased rehabilitated surface area in the Sota-Goungoun GFC and active involvement of women and youth in community forestry initiatives; and
(iv) increased awareness of the importance of sustainable forest resource management and commitment among communities, as measured based on increased community involvement in efforts to combat illegal logging and wildlife trafficking.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

- The forest complex now has validated Operational Monitoring and Protection and Community Engagement plans; these will serve as an operational reference framework pending support to update the Participatory Forest Management Plans (PAPF), which have currently expired.
- The CTAF is equipped with vehicles (cars and motorcycles), patrol gear, and an operations room featuring a video surveillance system, and its agents are trained in the use of the SMART tool.
- A Special Forest Monitoring and Security Unit (USSSF) now has an operational coordination center at its disposal.
- Five hectares of degraded forest have been restored in the Sota Classified Forest, with the active involvement of local communities and co-management bodies.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project's initial definition was based on a robust problem analysis, identifying three main causes of the forest complex's degradation—resource overexploitation, limited monitoring capacity, and weak local community organizational capacity—all linked to the deteriorating security situation. This analysis proved relevant during implementation: the three selected outputs made it possible to address the technical, operational, and community dimensions of the problem simultaneously. The most significant discrepancy between planning and implementation concerned the timeline (a three-month extension) and the capital assets component; the procurement process for IT equipment, drones, and surveillance cameras faced delays due to national public procurement procedures and rising costs for off-road motorcycles, the latter requiring a "no-objection" notice from the ITTO. These deviations did not jeopardize the achievement of the specific objective but did delay the full operationalization of the operations room. The adequacy of inputs (personnel, equipment, financial resources) relative to the scale of the intervention area (approximately 130,000 hectares) remains a point of concern: the resources mobilized—while substantially bolstered by the project—remain limited in proportion to the vastness of the forest tracts and the persistent human pressure observed during patrols. Beneficiary participation, anticipated as a key success factor, materialized through the involvement of co-management structures in reforestation efforts, the holding of the Consultation Framework and the CGP meetings, and the awareness-raising activities conducted by IPV-ONG.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The Project Technical Committee identified three main difficulties: implementation delays linked to the time taken to make funds available at the start of the project; administrative and procedural constraints regarding procurement; and security challenges in the project area.
The Committee noted that the three-month extension made it possible to recover much of the lost time and to derive valuable lessons for the planning, coordination, and anticipation of implementation procedures for future projects. However, despite the availability of all necessary tools and resources, the project's short duration did not allow for the internalization of the PSP and the PEC.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The ITTO Secretariat has received the project completion report, a technical report and the final financial audit is about to start.

(4) PP-A/60-370 Integrated Project to Strengthen Sustainable Management Systems and Monitoring the Miombo Forest against Degradation Processes for Food Security, Rural Employment and Climate Mitigation Action (Angola)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US$ 197.544.09
ITTO Budget:		US$ 166,847.09
Government of Japan:	US$ 166.847,09	
Government of Angola:		US$ 30,697.00

Implementing Agency:	FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY *(INSTITUT DE DEVELOPPEMENT FORESTIER - IDF)*
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 12 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Formal Duration:	First extension until 30 March 2026 (MOFA-Japan's letter of 23 April 2025 and ITTO's letter L.25-0022 of 17 February 2025) Second extension until 30 September 2026 (NOL F.26-0026)

I. Introduction

Angola's territory is divided into several zones: an arid coastal strip extending from Namibe Province almost to the capital, Luanda; a humid inland plateau; dry savanna in the southern and southeastern interior; and tropical rainforest in the north. The country possesses an extensive river network featuring numerous rivers and tributaries, most notably the Zambezi, Kwanza, Cunene, and Cubango. The coastal strip is semi-arid, influenced by the cold, dry Benguela Current. The climate is defined by two seasons: the rainy season—coinciding with the hottest time of year from October to April—and the dry season, which runs from May to September. Average annual temperatures hover around 27°C, with a minimum of 17°C. The country is situated in a unique geographical location, spanning the intertropical and subtropical zones of the Southern Hemisphere. Consequently, Angola is divided into two distinct climatic regions: a) The coastal region, characterized by an average annual temperature above 23°C; b) The interior region, subdivided into: a northern zone with heavy rainfall and high temperatures; a high-altitude central plateau zone marked by a dry season with low temperatures; and a semi-arid southwestern zone near the Namib Desert (an extension of the Kalahari), which is also influenced by significant continental tropical air masses. Elevations vary considerably, ranging from 1,000 to 2,000 meters. Angola has an estimated forest cover of 69.3 million

hectares—including 61,000 hectares of planted forest—representing approximately 55.6% of its total land area, according to data from the First National Forest Inventory (January 2017). Natural forest formations are quite diverse and include, among others, highly productive dense humid tropical forests, which account for about 20% of the country's forest area. These vegetation formations are located in the northern part of the country, specifically in the provinces of Cabinda, Zaire, Uige, Bengo, and Cuanza Norte. Meanwhile, more than 80% of the total forest area consists of "miombo" open forest formations—a diverse mosaic of dry forest and savanna—capable of producing high-value timber. Miombo forest ecosystems provide various non-timber products, fuelwood, construction timber, and pasture. These ecosystems are subject to significant human pressure to meet the aforementioned needs, resulting in severe degradation. This project proposal, based on the Concept Note (reference CN-24030), was submitted by Angola to the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). The submission was made as part of a request for financial support through a special arrangement involving the Government of Japan's emergency budget. The aim is to help reverse the trend of degradation affecting miombo forest ecosystems.

II. Project Objective

This project will help reverse the trend of degradation in Miombo forest ecosystems and increase their forest cover, involving key stakeholders—including local communities living near the project's target areas, timber companies, and other forestry actors—across central, southern, and eastern Angola. The project specifically aims to promote the gradual rehabilitation of degraded Miombo forest ecosystems with the involvement of key stakeholders, including local communities living near the project's target areas, timber companies, and other relevant actors.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

1. Completed drafting of Output 1: Institutional and legal framework for the supervision and monitoring of drivers of degradation in Miombo forest ecosystems;
2. Completed drafting of Output 2: National Program for the Sustainable and Integrated Management of Miombo Forest Ecosystems.
3. Submitted to the IDF Directorate General the documents regarding the Institutional and Legal Framework for the Supervision and Monitoring of Drivers of Degradation in Miombo Forest Ecosystems, as well as the proposal for the National Program for the Sustainable and Integrated Management of Miombo Forest Ecosystems, for analysis and validation.
4. Prepared and submitted to the ITTO Secretariat the monthly reports

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

- Meetings with local authorities (Directors of the provincial offices for Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries in the Cuando and Cubango provinces, and the Provincial Director of Environment for Cubango province);
- Project presentation meetings and consultations with the Municipal Administrators of Cuchi and Cuito-Cuanavale;
- Meetings with representatives of NGOs (TNC, MBAKITA, ACADIR, and ADPP);
- Consultation meetings with members of the Cuando-Cubango Timber Operators and Industrialists Association (AMICC);
- Consultation meetings with forestry entrepreneurs;
- Meeting with local communities and cooperative members in the villages of Ntombo ya Kanguina and Sendje (Cuchi) and Kambamba (Cuito-Cuanavale);
- Site visit to the Menongue Forest Products Depot;
- Site visit and consultation at the Cuchi Steel Company (CSC);
- Identification of sustainable forestry practices in miombo forest ecosystems within the project's target area (Sub-activity 1.1.3);

- Delivery of a basic beekeeping course and installation of an apiary using improved hives in the local communities of Ntumbo ya Kangina (Cuchi municipality).

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

Miombo forest is facing several threats that need a combination of efforts to sort them out with the involvement of all the stakeholders.

VI. Concluding Remarks

No significant issues were found during this project execution period except for the validation workshop of the consultants' deliverables which could not be held because of some administrative reasons

C. BWP PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION

(1) PP-A/54-331A Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US$ 1,413,449
ITTO Budget:		US$ 1,413,449
Government of Germany:	US$ 1,413,449	

Implementing Agency:

Asia- Pacific
Cambodia: Forestry Administration
Thailand: Royal Forestry Department/Kasetsart University
Vietnam: Administration of Forestry/Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences
India: Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
Indonesia: Ministry of Environment and Forestry
West Africa
Togo: University of Lomé

Starting Date and Duration: November 2023 / 36 months

This project originated from the concept note (CN-23026) and received financing of US$1,413,449 from the German Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMLEH) in August 2023. ITTO established Minutes of Understandings (MOUs) with six participating countries (Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Togo, Indonesia and India) and the Johann Heinrich Thunen Institute of Germany. The project has started to implement the activities since the beginning of November 2023.

The Project aims to significantly improve the production of high-quality timber from teak and other valuable species plantations established by smallholders and communities in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa. This will be achieved by promoting policies to secure high-quality planting stock, adoption of best silviculture practices, access to financing to promote longer rotations, value addition, and improved timber legality. Key activities include promoting financial schemes that invest in high-quality teak production with long rotations and provide access to voluntary carbon markets. Tapping into the carbon credit markets would provide additional incentives and support the global effort on climate change mitigation. Furthermore, it facilitates regional and international cooperation for sustainable smallholder plantations. Through the effective implementation of policies and the promotion of collaboration promotion, this Project will contribute to improving the economic outcomes of smallholder and community plantations in the tropics.

Until the reporting date (30 June 2026), the project has made the following progresses:

The project has accomplished a number of notable activities under Output 1, including: i) To preserve genetic variation in teak and other valuable species by better managing seed orchards, provenance/progeny experiments, and clonal plantations. ii) To assist local people and smallholders in better managing the current demonstration plots; and iii) To encourage smallholder and community plantings to comply with local and national legislation pertaining to forest plantations, management, timber harvesting, and legality.

Every activity has been carried out under Output 2. Among the activities are: i) Conduct a feasibility study with sourcing businesses for direct contracts or out-grower schemes to guaranty that smallholders' goods will be bought at fair pricing; ii) Conduct research to encourage microloans for smallholders to get over the collateral issue; iii) Conduct research to encourage the establishment of efficient forest grower groups in order to lower transaction costs and enhance microcredit availability; iv) Conduct a research to gain access to voluntary carbon markets in order to boost farmers' income and financial stability.

The project's activities resulted in 15 out of 18 bi-monthly news letters, 8 out of 12 webinars, and one out of two regional workshops under Output 3. At the IUFRO World Congress 2024 (Sweden) and the 5th World Teak Conference 2025 (Kerala, India), support sharing lessons in boosting high-quality teak production and legal and sustainable supply chains were conducted.

The ITTO-BMLEH teak project has provided six tropical countries in Asia-Pacific and West Africa with a unique opportunity to collaborate in their effort toward the sustainable management of teak and other valuable species and to promote quality timber production under the South- South Cooperation. Following the successful Launching and Inception Workshops in October 2023 and January 2024, respectively, the project team and institutional arrangement were established in the six participating countries to implement the project activities with support from consultants.

The project has reached an overall completion rate of 75% after 32 months of implementation, with completion rates ranging from 65% to 100%. The project is making good progress in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Togo, according on the implementation progress detailed in the fifth biennial progress report and recent project monitoring trips in India, Vietnam, and Togo. The national project team has worked hard to expedite implementation, even though India formally began project implementation in November 2024. As a result, the India component is now able to meet the project timeframe as previously committed.

The 5th bi-annual project progress report covering activities to June 2026 is available on request (English only). The Executing Agency is planning to organize the 3rd PSC meeting and the 2nd Regional Workshop on 12-16 October 2026 in Indonesia.

(2) PP-A/56-341C Support for Women's Groups with the Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou, Benin – Phase I

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US$	80,330.73
ITTO Budget:		US$	64,180.73
Soka Gakkai (SG):	US$ 64,180.73		
ONG W.E.W.:		US$	16,150.00

Implementing Agency: African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF, in French acronym) in collaboration with World Ecology Women (W.E.W.) of Benin

Starting Date and Duration: October 2024 / 12 months

I. Introduction

This Special Activity, which aims to support women's groups in forest landscape restoration through the production of seedlings—including fast-growing species like Acacia and Teak as well as native species—represents a necessary and timely response to the degradation of forest landscapes in the target area. By focusing on women's empowerment, biodiversity conservation, and the development of sustainable agroforestry, the Special Activity seeks to address these systemic challenges while creating sustainable opportunities for women and their communities. Funding from the donor institution Soka Gakkai (SG) of Japan offers a crucial opportunity to drive significant positive change, thereby contributing to forest landscape restoration in the Ouémé and Zou departments of Benin. This initiative stems from an awareness of the environmental and socio-economic challenges facing this target area of Benin. Progressive forest degradation, driven by various human pressures, has had detrimental effects on biodiversity, the climate, agricultural development, and food security. The Special Activity is grounded in the recognition of the crucial role played by women—vulnerable members of society who rely on natural resources yet face barriers regarding access to the information, financial means, and technologies needed to contribute effectively to forest landscape preservation.

In Benin, the country where this Special Activity is being implemented, the initiative aligns with national policies—such as the National Forestry Policy, the Reforestation and Sustainable Land Management Strategy, the National Development Plan (PND 2018–2025), and the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. This underscores the integration of the Special Activity into national priorities regarding sustainable natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and climate change resilience. It is also worth noting that this Special Activity complies with Benin's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 2017–2030); a key forestry-sector objective within the NDC is to restore national forest cover by implementing a reforestation plan—targeting 15,000 hectares of plantations annually between 2021 and 2030—with the aim of increasing the carbon sequestration capacity of forest ecosystems.

II. Project Objective

Overall Objective The overall objective of this Special Activity is to actively promote the participation of women's groups in the restoration of degraded forest landscapes. This comprehensive initiative aims to restore community forests, highlighting the importance of combating climate change and seeking significant improvements in the livelihoods of local communities.

Specifically, the aim is to strengthen the technical and material capacities of local women's organizations regarding reforestation and restoration, while contributing to increasing the forest potential of the Zou and Ouémé departments through the restoration of community forests.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The implementation of project activities has yielded significant results, aligned with the established objectives. The technical and organizational capacities of women's groups have been strengthened, particularly regarding the production of forest and agroforestry seedlings, reforestation, and sustainable agroforestry practices. Beneficiaries have acquired practical skills enabling them to effectively manage nurseries and establish plantations and agroforestry systems. The project has also contributed to the gradual restoration of degraded forest landscapes in the intervention areas through the planting of forest and agroforestry seedlings suited to local conditions. Furthermore, the active participation of women in project activities has reinforced their role in the sustainable management of natural resources and fostered their socio-economic empowerment within local communities.

The main deliverables produced under the project include:

- Two (02) nurseries established—one per commune—for the benefit of the 12 women's groups involved in the project;

- Training modules and materials on seedling production, reforestation, and agroforestry;
- 21 hectares of plantations and agroforestry systems established;
- Work equipment provided to the beneficiaries;
- 76,624 forest and agroforestry seedlings produced and planted;
- Periodic technical and financial reports;
- 18 information and awareness-raising meetings held for the beneficiary women's groups (6 in Sèmè Podji and 12 in Zogbodomey).

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

Environmental impacts

The project has generated significant positive environmental impacts in the intervention areas. Establishing plantations for women's groups within communities and implementing agroforestry systems have contributed to the gradual restoration of degraded forest landscapes, improved vegetation cover, and soil protection against erosion. Reforestation and agroforestry activities have been key drivers in restoring vegetation cover. Local biodiversity is also expected to gradually recover, supported by the predominant use of *Gmelina* and teak, alongside natural regeneration and the progressive introduction of other local tree species. Furthermore, raising awareness among women's groups and communities about sustainable forest resource management practices has helped reduce human pressure on restored areas and promote environmentally friendly behaviors.

Socio-economic impacts

From a socio-economic perspective, the project has had a notable positive impact on the living conditions of beneficiary women and their households. Strengthening the technical capacities of women's groups has enhanced their autonomy and involvement in income-generating activities related to seedling production, agroforestry, and the value addition of forest and agroforestry products. The active participation of women in the project has helped strengthen their role and recognition within local communities, thereby fostering social inclusion and gender equity. In the medium to long term, the established plantations are expected to generate sustainable economic benefits—particularly through timber production and the production and marketing of fruits and non-timber forest products—as well as by improving local climatic conditions to support resilient agricultural productivity.

Institutional impacts

The project has also contributed to strengthening the institutional capacities of local stakeholders involved in forest resource management. Collaboration among women's groups, local authorities, decentralized state technical services, and project partners has improved coordination and local governance regarding forest landscape restoration initiatives.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

Importance of community mobilization

The success of reforestation and agroforestry activities relies heavily on the buy-in and involvement of local authorities and communities. Clearly presenting project objectives and maintaining ongoing communication fostered the stakeholders' long-term commitment.

Pivotal role of women in landscape restoration

When trained and supported, women play a decisive role in the sustainable management of natural resources. Their involvement has promoted both economic empowerment and the long-term viability of environmental initiatives.

Need for practical, tailored training Sessions combining theory and practice proved particularly effective in ensuring skills were truly mastered.

Hands-on training in seedling production, reforestation, and agroforestry enabled immediate application in the field.

Importance of integrating forestry and agriculture (agroforestry)
Combining forest and agricultural species yielded better results regarding forest seedling growth, soil fertility improvement, and production system resilience. This integrated approach strengthened both food security and ecosystem restoration.

Improving soil fertility through agroforestry systems
Agroforestry systems contribute significantly to soil enrichment, leading to sustainable improvements in agricultural productivity.

Importance of planning and foresight
Detailed activity planning and consideration of local constraints (climatic, land-related, and logistical) are essential to avoid delays and ensure the quality of interventions.

Continuous monitoring and support
Regular monitoring of sites and beneficiaries made it possible to quickly identify challenges, adjust actions, and ensure the long-term success of plantations and agroforestry practices.

Good practices
- Participatory and inclusive approach
Involving beneficiaries, local authorities, and partners from the project planning stage fostered ownership and the effectiveness of actions. Similarly, encouraging the active participation of women and marginalized groups strengthened social cohesion and the project's success.

- Promotion of integrated agroforestry systems
Integrating tree species into agricultural systems is a key good practice. It optimizes land use, improves soil fertility, diversifies income sources, and enhances resilience to climate-related risks.

- Improved nursery seedling production
Adopting improved seedling production techniques (selecting adapted species, using enriched substrates, and applying good nursery management practices) resulted in higher-quality seedlings and increased survival rates after planting.

- Integration of environmental and socio-economic dimensions
Combining ecological restoration with women's economic empowerment ensured lasting environmental and social impacts.

- Partnership with local stakeholders
Collaborating with forestry services, municipalities, and local organizations improved governance, secured sites, and strengthened the sustainability of the initiatives.

- Monitoring and evaluation based on clear indicators
Using precise indicators to measure progress (number of women trained, areas reforested, species planted) facilitated the consolidation of results and the identification of areas requiring adjustment.

- Documentation and capitalization of experiences
Recording activities, results, and good practices enables the sharing of experience with other projects, supports replication, and informs local and national sustainable forest management policies.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The ITTO Secretariat has received project completion report, and final financial audit is ongoing.

D. PROJECTS, PRE-PROJECTS, AND BWP PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

(1) PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) Phase II — Conservation of African Barwood (Pterocarpus Erinaceus Poir) in the Gazetted Forests of La Palee and Boundiali in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of Local Communities – Phase II (Côte d'Ivoire)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	330,736
ITTO Budget:			US$	246,488
Government of Japan:	US$	246,488		
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:			US$	84,248

Implementing Agency: Forest Development Corporation (Société de Développement des Forêts— SODEFOR)

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months

The African barwood tree (Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir) is a multipurpose tree having a direct role as a source of additional household income. In fact, its technological qualities are such that this timber species is one of the most sought-after in West Africa, much appreciated for cabinet-making, heavy carpentry, outdoor carpentry (Duvall 2008). In addition, African barwood yields a diverse range of non-timber products including food for human consumption, cattle fodder (Petit and Mallet 2001), medicines and raw materials for handicrafts (tannins, dyes, sap, resin, etc.). Given these values, African barwood has been overexploited (fraudulently and illegally), especially during the crisis experienced by the country. In addition, due to a lack of awareness raising about fire risks, certain practices involving the use of fire and resulting in forest fires such as the slash and burn cultivation and livestock transhumance are commonly in use in the region and constitute a serious threat for African barwood.

Despite the importance accorded to this multipurpose species, the country still lacks scientific and technical information to guide specific silvicultural treatments or to assess the status of natural stands to identify adequate management strategies. It is today essential for Côte d'Ivoire to maintain and increase plant cover for this multipurpose species, which is in danger of extinction

The first approval of this 36-month project was in September 2019 through the electronic approval system for the project cycle of 2019. This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project, in 2021. The project was partially financed with an amount of US$320,000 thanks to the generous contribution of Japan during the inter-session period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59. As the project was partially funded, it was revised into a phased project, which was approved in March 2023, with the Phase 1 to be implemented with the abovementioned amount. The Project Agreement governing Phase 1 of the project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) was signed by all parties in September 2023, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds made in December 2023 after the reception by the ITTO Secretariat of an acceptable Inception Report and its associated Detailed Work Plan. Phase II of the project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) was fully funded by the government of Japan during the Sixtieth Session of the Council in December 2024.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of the African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) ecosystems in Côte d'Ivoire in the Bagoué region. The project specifically intends to safeguard the African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) in the Gazetted Forests of Palée and Boundiali in the Bagoué region of northern Côte d'Ivoire. There are three expected outputs of the project: (1) the processes of African barwood propagation are understood and mastered; (2) The use of African barwood is sustainable and under control; and (3) Bushfire outbreaks are under control.

Phase II of the project the project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) will commence its implementation, after the full completion of Phase I with the submission of an acceptable completion report and a satisfactory final financial audit report by the implementing agency (SODEFOR).

(2) PD 944/25 (F) Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment of Potential Investment Areas (PIAs) within Forest Land in the Philippines

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	160,000
ITTO Budget:			US$	160,000
Government of Japan:	US$	160,000		

Implementing Agency: PHILIPPINES FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU (FMB)

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months

This project was approved in December 2024 during the 60th session of ITTC and is fully funded by the Government of Japan. The project addresses the increasing vulnerability of Philippine Forests to natural disasters and climate-related hazards, such as pests, diseases, soil degradation, typhoons, and droughts. These risks pose significant threats to forest ecosystems and the investments tied to them. This project aims to assess these vulnerabilities and provide actionable insights for private investors, enabling them to optimize their investments in climate-resilient forestry and reduce financial risks.

Although funding was secured, the project agreement required formal endorsement through the Philippines government's legislative process and administrative procedure. Specifically, approval was required from relevant authorities, including the Office of the President under Memorandum Circular No. 51 (OP-MC51), which governs the authority to negotiate and sign international agreements, foreign loan, grants and guarantees. The average time to complete this process is one year.

The ITTO Secretariat maintained regular monthly communication with the project proponent to monitor the progress. However, as of June 2026, the governmental review process remained pending. In June 2026, the Executing Agency officially requested the closure of this Project due to prolonged uncertainties in the administration process. The ITTO Secretariat subsequently accepted the request.

Accordingly, the Project PD 944/25 (F) has been terminated as the timely implementation of this project has become unfeasible due to political and technical issues in the country that are beyond ITTO's control.

(3) PP-A/56-341D Support for Women's Groups with the Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou, Benin – Phase II

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:			US$	92,196.75
ITTO Budget:			US$	78,446.75
Soka Gakkai (SG):	US$	78,446.75		
ONG W.E.W.:			US$	13,750.00

Implementing Agency: African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF, in French acronym) in collaboration with World Ecology Women (W.E.W.) of Benin

Period of Approval: Approved in June 2026

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase II - 15 months

This second phase aims to sustainably consolidate achievements regarding forest landscape restoration, the improvement of ecological conditions, and the strengthening of food security in the Zou and Ouémé departments. It builds upon the pivotal role of women—key pillars of local development—by continuing efforts to foster their economic empowerment, promote sustainable forest resource management, and enhance the value of forest and agricultural products. Through an integrated approach, Phase II seeks to increase the availability of wood fuel and timber, boost agricultural production, and diversify income sources for beneficiaries. Funding for Phase II of the Special Activity supporting women's groups in forest landscape restoration within Benin's Zou and Ouémé departments is provided by Soka Gakkai (SG) of Japan. This funding enables the strengthening of women's technical and organizational capacities for reforestation and agroforestry operations, under the supervision of the General Directorate of Water, Forests, and Hunting—part of the Ministry of Living Environment and Transport, in charge of Sustainable Development (MCVT)—which serves as the ITTO focal point in Benin. Phase II also incorporates the development of income-generating activities through practical training on seedling production, reforestation, and agroforestry techniques, as well as on the processing and value addition of agricultural and forest products. Through this second phase, the Special Activity serves as a strategic driver for sustainable forest landscape restoration while contributing to improved living conditions for women and local socio-economic development. It thus embodies a holistic approach that combines natural resource conservation, women's empowerment, and rural community resilience in the Zou and Ouémé departments of Benin.

E. PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

(1) PD 712/13 Rev.3 (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 – Phase II

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	380,246
ITTO Budget:	US$	248,154
Government of Indonesia:	US$	6,272
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners	US$	125,820

Implementing Agency: Forest Research and Development Centre, Forestry and Environment Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in October 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase II - 12 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and was revised in two Phases, taking into account the funds available for immediate implementation. Phase I focuses on the enhanced planning framework and institutional capacity of the Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) and is currently operational with funding from the government of the Republic of Korea. Phase II of this project, focusing on promoting partnerships among key stakeholders for the operational management of GSK-BR, will commence, if funded, following the completion of Phase I.

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. 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.

(2) PD 930/22 Rev.2 (F) Ecological Restoration and Sustainable Management of the Sitatunga Valley Natural Community Park in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	554 792
ITTO Budget:	US$	452 816
CREDI-NGO:	US$	101 976

Implementing Agency: Regional Research and Education Centre for Integrated Development—Non-Governmental Organization (Centre Régional de Recherche Et D'éducation pour Un Développement Intégré—CREDI NGO)

Collaborating Agency: General Directorate for Water, Forests & Hunting and National Centre for Wildlife Reserve Management (Direction Générale des Eaux, Forêts et Chasse—DGEFC & CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF)

Period of Approval: October 2025

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The Sitatunga Valley Community Natural Park (PNCVS) in Benin includes over 22 community forests (CFs) with very high biodiversity and representing a natural heritage of great value due to their multiple functions, namely biological, ecological, socio-economic and cultural. Currently, the PNCVS is subject to severe degradation and deforestation threatening the entire ecosystem of the valley and therefore local people's livelihoods.

Project implementation aims to restore the valley ecosystem and to achieve sustainable management of the 22 community forests by building the capacities of stakeholders with a view to improving local people's living conditions. The project will be implemented based on the Principles set out in the ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics, in combination with the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM).
Project expected outcomes are as follows: (i) the 22 PNCVS-CFs have management tools in place and are sustainably managed; (ii) income derived from the PNCVS has been improved by 20% through the development of income-generating activities; and (iii) local community organizational skills have been strengthened.

(3) PD 938/24 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Management of Production Forests Driven by Traditional Communities in the Brazilian Amazon (Brazil)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	1,656,672
ITTO Budget:	US$	678,531
Government of Brazil:	US$	978,141

Implementing Agency: EMPRESA BRASILEIRA DE PESQUISA AGROPECUÁRIA AMAZONIA ORIENTAL (EMBRAPA)

Period of Approval: September 2026

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Traditional timber-producing communities in the Brazilian Amazon face significant challenges for implementing sustainable forest management practices, due to deficient communitarian organization, poor access to technical assistance and capacity building, as well as, the need deal with management models that do not adequately address their needs and capabilities. The project aims to strengthen communities' organizational and management capacities in the Conservation Unit Verde para Sempre in the State of Pará, with an area of 13 thousand km² through an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional approach.

(4) PD 939/24 Rev.2 (F) Generation of Fundamental Information for the Second Cutting Cycle in the Amazon Rainforest (Brazil)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	849,566.81
ITTO Budget:	US$	498,400.00
FAPESP & PFF:	US$	203,414.00
ESALQ-USP:	US$	147,752.81

Implementing Agency: ESALQ-USP

Period of Approval: October 2025

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project proposal aims at the generation of critical and unprecedented information about timber stocks in production forests submitted to a second cycle harvest in the Brazilian Amazon. The project also

intends to carry out forest inventory and measurements in three forest sites explored after 2000, in the states of Pará, Roraima and Mato Grosso. This approach allows for gathering data on second-cycle production forests located on eastern and western Amazon. Actions of this project also include the capacity building and training of main lumber buyer groups in the civil construction markets about the uses and characteristics of these species.

(5) PD 940/24 Rev.2 (F) Strengthening Effective Forest Area Designation and Customary Rights in East Nusa Tenggara Province as a Precondition of Achieving Sustainable Forest Management (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	673,715
ITTO Budget:	US$	599,555
Government of Indonesia:	US$	74,160

Implementing Agency: DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FORESTRY PLANNING, MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

Period of Approval: September 2026

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 30 months

Sustainable forest management is essential for maintaining forest productivity and delivering social, economic, and ecological benefits. In the Indonesia, clear and legitimate land tenure is a vital pre-condition for achieving SFM. Currently, however, ongoing conflicts over forest boundaries and customary lands in NTT province are hindering effective forest management.

To address this issue, the main objective of this project is to accelerate the effective designation of forest areas as a pre-condition of SFM in NTT Province. The outputs of this project are a) local communities' rights recognized and resolved, b) community capacity and acceptance of securing forest and land area boundaries improved, c) Local institutions on managing land tenure strengthened, and d) forestry-based business model at the community level developed.

(6) PD 942/25 Rev.2 (F) Developing Silvicultural Management Models for Forest Restoration Based on the Use of Seed Trees for the Establishment of Natural and Artificial Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	1,911,612
ITTO Budget:	US$	1,061,040
Government of:	US$	850,572

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FORESTRY CHAMBER (CNF)

Collaborating Agencies: MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT AND IRRIGATION (MIDAGRI)
NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERFOR)
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT (MINAM)
ASSOCIATED NATURE AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANTS (CANDES)
REGIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE AUTHORITY OF MADRE DE DIOS
FOREST CONCESSIONS AND NATIVE COMMUNITIES IN THE REGION

Period of Approval: October 2025

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 60 months

This project seeks to silvicultural manage seed trees for the production of seedlings for natural and artificial regeneration, leading to the restoration of harvested species populations for the next harvesting cycle. The results of the project will contribute to the development of a silvicultural system to be applied in the restoration of commercial species in areas under forest management plans and operational plans in support of forest concessions and native communities.

The main beneficiaries of this project are native communities and forest concessionaires, as well as stakeholders engaged in forest plantations.

(7) PD 949/25 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Governance Systems and Local Regulatory Frameworks for the Resilience and Sustainability of Municipal and Community Forests in Western Guatemala

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	696,381.96
ITTO Budget:	US$	459,086.96
CALMECAC:	US$	237,295.00

Implementing Agency: FUNDACION PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL DEL HOMBRE Y SU ENTORNO (CALMECAC)

Period of Approval: October 2025

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project aims to strength governance systems and regulatory frameworks to build the resilience and sustainability of municipal and community forests in western Guatemala. This will be achieved by strengthening engagement structures, dialogue, regional and municipal cross-sectoral agreements and action to combat illegal logging, prevention of forest fires and promotion of sustainable forest management with high ecological and commercial value species. The objectives of the project are: (1) consolidate Illegal Logging Prevention and Reduction Roundtables in Huehuetenango and Quiché; (2) implement fire management actions to reduce deforestation and degradation of municipal and community forests; (3) strengthen sustainable forest management of iconic, high ecological and commercial value species such as *Abies guatemalensis* Rehder (Pinabete) in Western Guatemala; (4) implement ecosystem-based adaptation actions in 325 hectares; and (5) strengthen the Technical Council of the National Strategy for

Pinabete Conservation and Protection as a governance operation mechanism to promote legal trade of Pinabete plantation products and byproducts.

(8) PD 950/25 Rev.1 (F) Support to Local Communities for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Mountain Forests in the Sub-Northern Region of Togo

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	673,008
ITTO Budget:	US$	505,008
Government of Togo:	US$	168,000

Implementing Agency:	Friends of the Global Environment, Civil Society Organization (Association les Amis de L'environnement Mondial Togo—AEM-TOGO)
Collaborating Agency:	Directorate for Forest Resources (Direction des Ressources Forestières—DRF)
Period of Approval:	October 2025
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months

In addition to the impacts of global warming, which are increasingly impacting mountain ecosystems, human activities have considerably increased the risk levels in recent decades. Following the fall in commodity prices in 1980 and the economic crisis of the 1990s, mountain communities in Togo have turned to food crop farming, which thrive under sunny conditions, for their own consumption and the sale of any surplus, rather than engage in cash crops, whose prices are subject to fluctuations. This system of slash-and-burn cultivation using flatland techniques, the search for forest products to meet food and economic needs, and the mining of quartzite, granite, clay and sand for construction or sale are all factors that are seriously damaging mountain ecosystems. The ongoing degradation of forest strata has exacerbated biodiversity loss and soil erosion; decreased crop yields; contributed to irregular rainfall; increased the risk of rockfalls and landslides, etc.

To reverse this trend, the data from the preliminary project PPD 136/07 Rev.1 (F) have made it possible to develop this project proposal, which aims at the rehabilitation and sustainable management of mountainous areas in the sub-northern region of Togo. In the long term, the project will enable the restoration of 360 hectares of degraded areas; produce 1,500,000 high-quality forest seedlings; training of 150 women and young people in appropriate carbonization techniques; support to 10 women's and youth groups in the development of agriculture and priority non-timber forest products; training of 50 delegates from neighboring village groups in poultry and pig farming; and provision of 10 women's and youth groups with agricultural, poultry and pig farming equipment, among other things.

(9) PD 962/26 Rev.1 (F) Promoting Participatory Sustainable Forest Management through Social Forestry Program in Central Kalimantan (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	346,660
ITTO Budget:	US$	289,360
FKKM/YKMI (in kind)		6,300
Government of Indonesia (in kind):	US$	51,000

Implementing Agency: DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL FORESTRY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF FORESTRY REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA (MoFor)

Period of Approval: September 2026

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project proposal was approved in the 2026 Project Cycle through the No Objection Procedure. This project seeks to transform Social Forestry (SF) in Seruyan District, Central Kalimantan, from a permit-based system into an Integrated Development Area (IAD) model that synergizes sustainable forest management, environmental conservation, and local economic development. Although the district currently hosts 23 SF untis benefiting 2,269 households, the majority of its Social Forestry Business Groups (KUPS) remain in early developmental stages. Executed by the Directorate of Social Forestry Business Development (PUPS) alongside implementing partners YKM/FKKM and Kaleka, the initiative will strengthen forest governance across Seruyan's approximately 745,000 ha. It specifically targets 300 ha of dry lowland and peatland forests to reinforce management planning, restore 30 ha of degraded land with a 70% seedling survival rate, and establish community-based fire management systems in three villages. Furthermore, the project aims to facilitate two SF Management Plans (RKPS) and upgrade at least six KUPS to Silver or Gold classification. By ensuring that 70% of these upgraded groups secure formal non-timber forest product (NTFP) market transactions and purchase agreements, the project directly supports ITTO's mandate to promote responsible, legal, and market-oriented tropical forest utilization while significantly enhancing the economic resilience and livelihoods of the local communities.

(10) PPD 206/25 Rev.1 (F) Restoration and Sustainable Management of Gallery Forests in the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	92,640
ITTO Budget:	US$	69,440
DGFEC:	US$	23,200

Implementing Agency: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING (DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC)

Collaborating Agency: NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE RESERVES (CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF)

Period of Approval: October 2025

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

The Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve (MDBR) is part of the newly protected areas in Benin and is in line with the basic principles of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) governing the national process for establishing protected areas. The significance of the MDBR lies specifically in its exceptional biodiversity; the maintenance of forest connectivity in the western part of Southern Benin; the maintenance of ecological services, including hydrological services and carbon stocking; and the preservation of resources used by neighboring communities. The MDBR is an integral part of the RAMSAR 1017 site. As such the MDBR is a wetland of international importance which is part of the Mono River basin at the border between Benin and Togo. Gallery forests (GF) with wildlife and flora species listed in the IUCN Red List are

found in this ecological area. The area is now highly degraded because of anthropogenic pressures (human settlements, uncontrolled land clearing for farming, overharvesting of fish and resources, etc.). It is therefore urgent to establish a management and protection system for gallery forests. To address this issue, this pre-project was developed to collect information required to conduct an assessment of the state of forest galleries with a view to developing a full project proposal for the restoration and sustainable management of gallery forests. The main expected outputs are: (i) baseline information on the MDBR gallery is available; and (ii) a support project for the sustainable management of the MDBR is developed and submitted to ITTO. The pre-project can serve as a model for the restoration of MDBR-neighboring forests through the management of biosphere reserves, while ensuring a balance between conservation and socio-economic goals.

(11) PPD 208/25 Rev.1 (F) Study for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in the Mô Plain, Togo

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	150 190
ITTO Budget:	US$	98,000
Government of Togo:	US$	52 190

Implementing Agency:	FRIENDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (ASSOCIATION LES AMIS DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT —AMEN)
Collaborating Agency:	DIRECTORATE OF FOREST RESOURCES (DIRECTION DES RESSOURCES FORESTIÈRES)
Period of Approval:	October 2025
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 10 months

This pre-project aims to draw a baseline study of Ecological Zone II in Togo in order to produce a Project Document for the conservation and sustainable management of natural plant formations in the Mô 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 forestry, socio-economic and legal studies as well as from environmental impact assessment in the project area is available; and (ii) a project proposal for the restoration and sustainable management of forest resources in the Mô Plain, Togo, is developed for submission.

(12) PPD 209/26 Rev.1 (F) Developing an Ecological Restoration Strategy for Charcoal Producing Forests to Enhance Carbon Stocks in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US$	160,952
ITTO Budget:	US$	147,852
Government of Benin (DGEFC):	US$	13,100

Implementing Agency:	RESEARCH LABORATORY ON INNOVATION FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (LABORATOIRE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'INNOVATION POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT AGRICOLE—LRIDA)
Collaborating Agency:	DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR WATER, FORESTRY AND HUNTING (DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC) LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF POPULATION DYNAMICS (LABORATOIRE D'ÉTUDE SUR LA DYNAMIQUE DES POPULATIONS—POPDYN)
Period of Approval:	September 2026
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 18 months

Nearly half of harvested timber worldwide is used as fuelwood, 17% of which is charcoal. The charcoal market generates income for close to 40 million people and releases approximately 1–2.4 gt CO2 as greenhouse gases. In Benin, high demand for charcoal poses a threat to biodiversity conservation and national carbon stocks. The main species used for charcoal production are Terminalia leiocarpa, Prosopis africana and Vittelaria paradoxa, and provide up to 70% of rural household income. The resilience of stands and carbon sequestration are being undermined due to increasing pressure, which threatens the long-term sustainability of the charcoal industry. Conservation initiatives face three major constraints. Firstly, a biological lock limits natural regeneration: germination rates, often below 15%, are severely hampered by recalcitrant seed coat dormancy. Secondly, the lack of real commitment from local communities is an obstacle to the success of restoration strategies. Furthermore, sound data for predicting the spatio-temporal dynamics of species used for charcoal production, the spatial distribution of charcoal production-related anthropogenic pressure rates necessary for identifying potential restoration sites, and decision-making tools to effectively guide sustainable management efforts are not available in Benin. The pre-project objective is to develop an ongoing system for monitoring the population dynamics of those three charcoal species with a view to identifying the locations where the species are most threatened; priority conservation areas for the implementation of experimental ecological restoration strategies; and the co-development of innovations and Payments for Ecosystem Services schemes for in situ conservation in collaboration with the local populations and water and forestry authorities.

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