

ITTO × SDGs

A big step towards global solutions



ITTO promotes the conservation of tropical forests resources through legal and sustainable trade by taking concrete actions, contributing to the SDGs.



International Tropical Timber Organization

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ITTO and the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

The sustainable management of tropical productive forests and a sustainable timber trade actively contribute towards meeting future wood demand while achieving several SDGs.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is mandated to promote the expansion of international tropical timber trade from legal and sustainable sources. It is perfectly placed therefore to assist countries in their efforts towards the SDGs.



ITTO was established in Yokohama in 1986 with ongoing strong support from the Government of Japan and the City of Yokohama.



ITTO promotes sustainable tropical forest management by:

- Building capacity on sustainable forest management in tropical countries through the implementation of more than 1000 field projects valued at more than USD 400 million.
- Providing a forum for policy dialogue on conserving and sustainably managing, using and trading tropical forest resources.
- Developing policy and technical guidelines on sustainable forest management, forest conservation and the restoration of tropical forests.
- Working with partners in government, the United Nations, civil society, academia and the private sector to improve forest management, conserve biodiversity and improve local livelihoods.
- Strengthening expertise in tropical forestry through its Fellowship Programme, which has enabled nearly 1400 young forestry professionals to increase their skills.
- Jointly implementing projects with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other partners to conserve biodiversity in productive forests.



The increased consumption of legally sourced and sustainable wood products can provide many economic, social and environmental benefits. ITTO is addressing responsible consumption and production by, for example, helping:

- Private-sector companies adopt legal and sustainable supply and production systems.
- Build capacities among small and medium-sized enterprises to better understand CITES regulations.
- Develop national timber-tracking systems to ensure legality.
- Monitor the implementation of timber legality assurance schemes.



Through its projects, ITTO is helping countries improve socioeconomic outcomes in tropical forests, where hundreds of millions of indigenous peoples and local communities live in extreme poverty. For example, ITTO projects:

- Proactively apply environmental and social safeguards and gender guidelines to support efforts to develop economic opportunities for women and young people.
- Promote the economically viable restoration of degraded landscapes and the sustainable production of wood and wood-based energy.
- Enable forest owners and local communities to improve their livelihoods from sustainably produced wood and non-wood products.

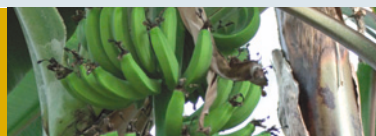
ITTO works closely with all stakeholders to develop legal and sustainable supply chains, which, among other things, help ensure that forest communities and locally based enterprises capture more of the value of tropical wood products.



Tropical forest degradation is contributing more to climate change than previously thought. On the other hand, sustainably produced wood is a renewable substitute for many carbon-intensive materials. Sustainably managed tropical forests, and their associated legal and sustainable supply chains, therefore, could become a cornerstone of efforts to combat climate change and develop a more circular economy. Through projects and policy development, ITTO is helping stakeholders take the following five steps to make this a reality:

- 1) Protect high-conservation-value forests for their environmental services.
- 2) Restore degraded multifunctional forest landscapes for productive uses.
- 3) Increase the capacity of tropical forests to adapt to climate change and increase resilience to fire.
- 4) Manage and use existing productive forests to increase carbon sequestration and avoid deforestation and degradation.
- 5) Promote trade through legal and sustainable supply chains.

More on ITTO's efforts towards achieving the SDGs at www.itto.int



ITTO:

- Encourages the adoption of agroforestry systems in the margins of natural and planted forests to produce foods and fibre for sale and direct consumption.
- Assists local communities to sustainably manage their natural forests, which are important sources of additional nutrition for families.

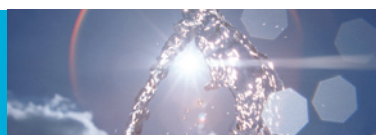


ITTO:

- Encourages forest and landscape restoration to provide environmental services that help ensure human health and well-being.
- Helps local communities grow plantations of forest-based medicinal plants.

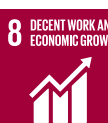


The ITTO policy guidelines on gender equality and the empowerment of women provides a framework for ensuring gender equality in the Organization's policies, programmes and projects.



ITTO projects:

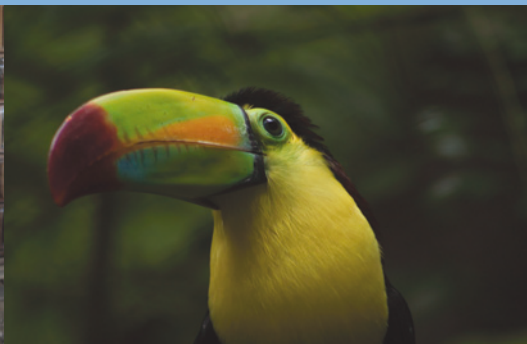
- Help restore degraded watersheds.
- Encourage reduced impact logging to help protect watersheds.
- Assist countries to manage transboundary watersheds.



ITTO projects have assisted and encouraged:

- Indigenous and local communities develop forest-based companies that provide high-quality employment and decent incomes.
- Increase the transparency in the trade of tropical wood products.
- The creation of industrial zones to enable the development of value-added forest-based enterprises.





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