INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS,
STATISTICS AND MARKETS

COMMITTEE ON FOREST INDUSTRY

Distr.
GENERAL

CEM-CFI(LIII)/3
12 September 2019

Original: ENGLISH

FIFTY-THIRD SESSION
2 – 7 December 2019
Lomé, Togo

REPORT OF COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS

This document highlights the work carried out under project PD 692/13 Rev.1 (M) of the Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets. The Committees may declare this project complete:

Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets

1. **PD 692/13 Rev.1 (M)**   **Implementation and Operationalization of a National Information System for the Sustainable Management of Forest Resources (Côte d'Ivoire)**

Budget and Sources of Funding:

Total Budget:	US$	670,998
Government of Japan:	US$	205,708
Government of U.S.A.:	US$	84,833
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US$	380,457

Executing Agency:	Direction de l'Informatique, des Statistiques et des Archives du Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêts (DISA)
Approved:	Spring Project Cycle, April 2013
Financed:	Forty-ninth Council Session (Libreville, 2013)
Starting Date:	March 2015
Duration: Planned:	24 months
Actual:	46 months

This project is a follow-up to PPD 61/02 Rév.1 (M) "Review of the Present Situation and Development of a Strategy and Project for Enhancing the National Forestry Statistics Management System" implemented between 2006 and 2007. It was aimed to reinforce forest products statistical system in Côte d'Ivoire and make it available to various stakeholders. The base of the system was an available but uncompleted application called SIGAF (Integrated Forestry Activities Management System). One of the project's aims was to strengthen, develop and deploy SIGAF. It was also aimed to enhance transparency of forestry and timber trade through updated and reliable information reported by timber industrialists and logging companies inside SIGAF which would have been available in various reporting centers in Côte d'Ivoire. Thus, the project had two outputs:

1. To finalize an operational and improved forest statistics management system,
2. To deploy appropriate collection methodologies among the different 12 chosen reporting centers in Côte d'Ivoire. These reporting centers are located close to forest industries.

The realization of the project suffered from lack of technical infrastructure such as limited internet access in the collection centers which were unbudgeted, an under-budgeted funding from the Côte d'Ivoire Government as well as the ITTO financial difficulties in 2015-2016 which reduced the ITTO funding by 17% and stopped the project implementation for one year. As a consequence, due to those technical and financial difficulties some activities of the project could not be fully completed.

The project was divided in 2 outputs and 21 activities which were unequally completed:

Output 1: the forest statistics management system is operational and improved.

- A11: To develop IT Module applications required for forest product tracking (in preparation for a FLEGT system)

The original aim of this activity was that the implementing agency supported by the IT consultant would develop a timber tracking module to be incorporated into SIGAF which was already in place.

The Executing agency was able to fund and develop 75% of this module. Nevertheless, as the system was not fully completed, it impacted the realization and completion of other activities.

- A12: To test the IT module for data collection and processing with relevant users

The original aim of this activity was that twelve sites would be able to test the system with a continuous support from the project team.

Despite the incompletion of the SIGAF, its developed part was carefully tested by the Executive Agency and was reported as functional.

- A13: To install and test IT facilities and equipment in the data collection centres

The original aim of this activity was to equip 12 data collection centers with computers and technical equipment. This activity was fully completed.

- A14: To provide training to data collection staff (Ministry of Water and Forests – MINEF – and stakeholders)

An original 3-day training for 25 people (MINEF employees and economic operators of the timber sector) was supposed to be organized. The staff involved would have been trained in the use of the applications developed to enable them to undertake the computerized data entry process.

Due to the lack of funding and to the non-completion of the system, this activity was not completed.

- A15: To promote the application developed

The project team was supposed to organize six exchange meetings with forestry operators in their areas of activity to raise awareness on the value of the module.

Due to lack of funding and to the non-completion of the system, this activity was not completed.

- A16: To disseminate the results of collected and processed data

The website of the Ministry of Water and Forests (www.eauxetforets.gouv.ci/oibt) was planned to be redeveloped to make updated forestry statistics available to users. Dashboards (data matrices) were also planned to be developed, published and disseminated systematically in hard copies, at monthly, quarterly and semi-annually intervals, together with the forestry statistics yearbook.

Due to lack of funding and to the non-completion of the system, this activity was partially completed as a website was developed and partial results were displayed during the testing sessions of the project in the collecting data centers.

- A17: To cable collecting data centers

This activity was added later during the project implementation as centers lacked working cable equipment. This activity was fully completed as it was necessary for the testing sessions.

Output 2:   Data collection methods are appropriate and organized among collection centres

- A21: To define, harmonize and validate data collection procedures

The original aim of this activity was to develop a Manual of procedures for field-level data collection. The manual was fully completed and made available to stakeholders.

- A22: To establish an intranet linking the various collection centres

An online network was supposed to be developed in this activity.

Due to lack of funding and to the non-completion of the system, this activity was not completed.

- A23: To train users (MINEF staff and industry stakeholders) in data processing procedures

This activity's aim was to train users (MINEF staff and industry stakeholders) in data processing procedures during two 3-day training.

Due to lack of funding and to the non-completion of the system, this activity was not completed.

- A24: To supervise the data collection process

Due to lack of funding and to the non-completion of the system, this activity was not completed.

A side output (strengthening institutional framework around the project implementation) was added during the project implementation. This side output was fully completed as it was a purely administrative formality needed for the project implementation (i.e. nomination of funds bailiff, official start of the project and official nomination of the project team members).

Despite the fact that the project did not fully deliver the original expected outputs, several goals were nonetheless reached:

1. The completion of the Manual of procedures is an extremely useful tool for future data collection.
2. SIGAF was not fully completed but strengthened and can be a viable tool for future development of a statistical system.
3. The recommendations of the participating stakeholders during the testing sessions were fully implemented and taken into account.
4. Stakeholders were also fully active and participated to the project allowing civil society to participate in the project implementation.
5. Despite a nonfunctional intranet and a lack of internet capabilities, the data collection sites are fully equipped with computers. This working capital will be fully operational for the future strengthening of the system.

The executing agency is currently working on submitting a second phase to this project as a project proposal to ITTO in order to fully complete and deploy SIGAF. The full project completion report and financial audit of project funds submitted by the Executing Agency are available on request (French only) from the Secretariat.

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