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REPORT ON

PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

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PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

A total of thirteen (13) approved projects are currently under implementation while none project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are twenty-three (23) approved projects still awaiting full financing. Two (2) projects are to be subject to possible termination process. In this report, the projects are grouped into four categories:

- A. Projects under active implementation;
- B. Projects which have financing allocated, but for which the contract or agreement regulating implementation has still not been concluded;
- C. Projects which still do not have full financing secured; and
- D. Projects to be subject to possible termination process.

A. PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

- (1) **PD 452/07 Rev.5 (F) Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase II (Brazil)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,447,891
ITTO Budget:		US\$	556,963
Government of Japan (MoFA)	US\$	556,963	
EMBRAPA:		US\$	576,807
MMA:		US\$	263,271
IFT:		US\$	50,850

Implementing Agency: Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (EMBRAPA), Belém, Pará

Period of Approval: Original version: Spring 2008
Rev. 5: November 2014

Starting Date and Duration: August 2017 / 36 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2008 Project Cycle. The Government of Brazil resubmitted the proposal with a modified budget in 2011 seeking another opportunity for funding for 20 months. In 2013, the proposal was further modified in its budget and resubmitted for funding for an additional period of 20 months. The project was fully financed at the Fiftieth Session of the Council held in November 2014, and the Project Agreement was duly signed in December 2015.

The Executing Agency, however, came to request the Secretariat for the further modification of the project in its development objective, specific objective and expected outputs in order to focus its activities on the community forests and non-timber forest products (NTFP) in addition to the timber producing forests at a commercial scale. It was stressed by the Executing Agency that both categories of forests require interventions to advance sustainable forest management in the Brazilian Amazon.

In early 2016, the Inception Report was prepared by the Executing Agency based on the aforementioned modified objectives and outputs and submitted to the ITTO Secretariat, together with a request for the first installment of funds. However, all installments of funds to ITTO projects were suspended from June to December 2016 due to ITTO financial issues and the implementation of the project based on a reduced budget was reviewed in early 2017. After finalizing an addendum to the project agreement in June 2017, the first installment was transferred in July 2017. With conclusion of all necessary administrative arrangements, the project became operational in August 2017.

The development objective of the project aims to strengthen the adoption of good forest management practices by medium and large scale timber enterprises in the Brazilian Amazon through the transfer of the

tools developed under its first phase PD 57/99 Rev.2 (F) "Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase I". In particular, this project intends to: consolidate the Tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM Tools); build capacity of training centres and universities of the Amazon region to transfer the SFM Tools to timber enterprises and government agencies responsible for forest management; evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of transferring the SFM Tools to timber enterprises; and disseminate project achievements and products to a large audience of relevant stakeholders.

Expected project outputs include: a set of SFM computer tools consolidated; guidelines to support SFM prepared; capacity of project collaborators for implementing training of SFM Tools strengthened; project clients trained in the use of SFM Tools; strategies for transfer of SFM Tools evaluated; and technical, social, financial and environmental impacts of changes caused by SFM adoption in selected timber enterprises evaluated.

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

- Training courses for collaborating organizations for dissemination of SFM tools BOManejo (a software to assist forest managers in preparing sustainable forest management plans) and Monitoring of Tropical Forests (MFT) were executed as scheduled. Eighteen teacher-participants of 13 different forestry courses from Universities of Pará and Maranhão states have participated of this training and were enthusiastic about including the computer tools in their disciplines.
- In applying a tool "Economical Monitoring of Forest Operations (MEOF)", technicians from the Institute Tropical Rainforest (IFT), one of the main institutional partners, and community managers were trained to collect information in the field that will be used to apply this tool. In October 2018, there was a workshop with economists and IT technicians from EMBRAPA and external to discuss and detail the priority procedures to adapt and update the tool.
- Institutional cooperation arrangements have been strengthened: partnerships between the Community Forests Project (IFT / CLUA) and the Bom Manejo 2 Project coordinated by Embrapa Amazônia Oriental; and the Institute of Education of Brazil (IEB) to establish a partnership with the Community Management Project (IEB / CLUA) in Verde Para Sempre Reserve. A partner entrepreneurs COOMFLONA (located in Tapajós National Forest) and EBATA Produtos Florestais S.A. (located in Saracá-Taquera Reserve) demonstrated a special interest in the economic monitoring tool MEOF.
- Three workshops in May, June and July 2019 promoted the articulation in the context of the Community and Family Forest Management Observatory (www.observatoriomfcf.org.br) between the Conexsus Institute (Sustainable Connection Institution), IEB, the Banco da Amazonia (BASA) and community leaders.
- Workshop "Positive Agenda for Sustainable Forest Management" was held on June 4-5, 2019 at Embrapa Eastern Amazon (Belém-PA) with the participation of representatives of various segments involved in timber production in natural forests (ca. 35 institutions with approximately 100 participants). Besides the very positive atmosphere of SFM Agenda, it provided recommendations for actions to be implemented in the areas of 1) Research, Teaching, Training and Forest Extension; 2) Wood Production: Private and Public Areas; 3) PMFS Licensing and Monitoring; and 4) Certification, Markets and Public Policy. The recommendations are expected to be gradually implemented with the support of several sectors present at the event to improve the practices of the wood production chain in the State of Pará.
- As part of the outreach and communication: a new logo for the project was developed with participation of the project team; an institutional video available at <https://youtu.be/swu4lvplkXQ>. In terms of project visibility, an article on the BOManejo tool was published in the Tropical Forest Update (TFU), Issue 27, no. 3, 2018. Recently, the project was nominated for evaluation as one of the Embrapa Amazônia Oriental's Outstanding Projects under the title "Softwares for the sustainable management of commercial-scale production forests in the Brazilian Amazon".

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	505,320
ITTO Budget:		US\$	396,310
Government of Switzerland:	US\$	78,000	
Government of Japan:	US\$	68,310	
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
Government of Liberia:		US\$	109,010
Implementing Agency:	Forestry Development Authority (FDA)		
Session of Approval:	ITTC Session XLIV, November 2008, Yokohama		
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2009 / 30 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Project extension: until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0019) Second Project extension: until December 2016 (NOLF.16-0057) Third Project extension: until December 2017 (NOLF.17-0093)		

This project has been approved and fully funded during the 44th ITTC Session in November 2008, thanks to the generous contributions of the Governments of Switzerland, Japan and the USA. The Project Agreement has been signed by the parties in April 2009. The project initiated implementation in July 2009 following the delivery of relevant documentation and nomination of a project coordinator. The ITTO budget of this project was reduced from US\$396,310.00 to US\$385,800.00 [referring to Decision 6(LII) of the 52nd Session of the Council and subsequent requirements], as it was impacted by the impacted by the financial impairment.

The project intends to contribute to the development of forest plantations and forest restoration as an effective tool for the conservation and sustainable management of the Liberia's forest and wildlife resources, to maintain environmental quality and improve the flow of benefits to all segments of society, in line with the Liberian Forest Policy "3 C Approach": Commercially-based, Conservation-oriented and Community-involvement, which is based on the three pillars of sustainable forest management (SFM): economic, ecological and social sustainability.

The project specific objectives are: 1) To develop a national reforestation policy and afforestation strategy consistent with the National Forestry Reform Law; and 2) To develop knowledge, expertise and capability of the Forest Development Authority and other stakeholders to assess, monitor and plan forest plantation and forest restoration activities in the country.

During the last three years, no project's progress report was submitted by the Executing Agency in order to share information on progress in project implementation. The implementation of some project activities had been delayed because of the internal turnover of some personnel, involved in the project implementation, within the Forestry Development Authority (FDA) which is the Executing Agency of this project. As recommended by the Forty-seventh session of the Committee, a special financial monitoring mission was carried by Mr. Manohar, ITTO Finance/Administration Officer, from 5 June to 2 July 2014, for an in-depth technical and financial assessment of the project implementation.

A project extension was granted until December 2016, without additional ITTO funds by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. However, no progress report has been submitted by the Executing Agency (FDA-Liberia) until the time of the preparation of this report. Therefore, there was no information available to update the level of the execution of the project activities for the Fiftieth CRF Session in November 2016.

The project implementation has been further extended until December 2017, without additional ITTO funds by the ITTO Secretariat, based on an official request including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. It was agreed that the implementation of this project was to be subject to a special arrangement between the executing agency (FDA-Liberia) and a consultancy team led by Juergen BLASER (as supervisor of two Liberian students preparing their PhD thesis in HAFL-University of Bern,

Switzerland) for the analysis of data collected during the implementation of this project, in order to prepare a final technical report. A national workshop was planned for the validation of the final technical report.

Since the Fifty-second Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The databank has been updated with the silvicultural data of existing plantations and the difficulty to access these forest plantations has slowed down the finalization of the databank to be subject to final assessment of success and failure of forest plantations. One of the reasons was the political insecurity in the countries over several months of the year 2019.
- The field assessment was delayed by several months that triggered so far a delay on the reporting and the finalization of the technical report;
- The final technical report still needs revising because of the delay in finalizing the databank, and will be discussed in the November national validation workshop;
- Considering the particular outcomes of the investments in industrial plantation forestry in the past, and the more recent development in the forest sector in Liberia (with the raising agenda in REDD+ and FLR), there is a need to readjust the initial target of developing a specific reforestation policy and afforestation strategy for the country, after the finalization of the databank and the validation of the final technical report.

Subsequent to the abovementioned progress, it is noted that some of the activities can only be conducted once a decision has been made on the usefulness of developing a separate forest plantation policy and strategy. Based on the outcomes, a strategic paper for future investments in planted forests could be developed. Thus, a proposed first stakeholder workshop that had been planned for June 2018 was therefore postponed to the second half of 2019. This, amongst other questions, will need to be decided at the November 2019 national validation workshop with a broader group of stakeholders. Therefore, the project implementation agencies request ITTO and the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management of the ITTA to extend the project duration by 4 months, without additional costs, until 30 April 2020, based on an appropriate work plan for the extension period.

(3) PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) Encouraging Customary Landowners in the Lowlands of Central Province (PNG) to Reforest Their Grasslands with High Value Trees

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	828,576
ITTO Budget:	US\$	644,814
Government of Japan:	US\$	644,814
Government of PNG:	US\$	183,762

Implementing Agency: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLV, Nov.2009, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: January 2012 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension until 31 December 2015 (NOLF.15-0004)
Second extension until 31 December 2016 (NOLF.16-0067)
Third extension until 31 January 2018 (NOLF.17-0029)
Fourth extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18-0085)

This project was approved in November 2009 and it was financed in November 2010. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in May 2010. After completing necessary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the Implementing Agency started the implementation of project activities in January 2012. However, the implementation of the project has been significantly delayed due to the weakness of the project management team and three changes of the national project coordinator. In case of the payment of the fourth installment of ITTO funds, it was stalled more than one year and released in October 2017 after the Implementing Agency submitted a satisfactory financial audit report. The fifth installment was transferred in February 2019. The project duration was

extended until the end of September 2019 to fully achieve the objectives of the project. A final extension has been reviewed and a proposal will be submitted soon.

The objective of the project is to create a model reforestation framework that encourages customary landowners in the Central Province lowlands to grow high value trees on their grasslands. The successful implementation of the project will lead to the expansion of long-term social, environmental and economic benefits for landowners in the Central Province lowlands through the development of reforestation enterprises to promote an appropriate set of business models and production systems. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) will be a focal species to be promoted through a range of model business arrangements and production systems. The expected outputs of the project include: a reforestation awareness programme is in operation for landowners and the wider community in Central Province; a business training & support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises; an agro-forestry training & support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises; and a distribution system is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises with agro-forestry stock and materials.

Since the Fifty-second Session of the Committee in November 2018, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- For the creation of a forestry education service for PNG's primary and secondary schools, a short-term consultant (Pacific Island Projects) was engaged in December 2018. It enabled school teachers from each model community to assess more than 150 multi-media teaching aids and promoted the benefit of trees and forests to the next generation of landowners in PNG through the outcome based curriculum's learning areas of science, culture and community.
- Creation of a restoration awareness service for landowners and the wider community has been promoted. The project team worked with landowners and landowner groups who were ready to plant trees on their land. The selection of reforestation awareness materials for the Central Province lowlands, and the subsequent awareness activities at Barakau, Girabu and Gomore villages has led to 29 farmers registering with the PNG Forest Authority's national restoration program "*Operation Painim Graun na Planim Diwai*" - in which the PNGFA is tasked to plant 800,000 hectares of trees by 2050.
- For the development of a business and agroforestry information service for small-scale reforestation enterprises, a tool kit (Tree Growers Tool Kit produced by the Pacific Island Projects containing over 250 multi-media resources for tree-growers and field-workers) helped landowners to plant trees. It was encouraged to ongoing, on-site support to ensure that men, women and children who are interested to plan trees receive priority support.

The PSC meeting was held on 22 August 2019 and made recommendations for the successful completion of the project. The recommendations include the speedy implementation of slow project activities such as operation of a distribution system for small-scale reforestation enterprises with agro-forestry stock and materials through completion of establishing provincial distribution hubs at Kuriva and Laloki that supply local distribution centres serving 4 model reforestation communities; submission of project financial audit report for the year 2018 for the release of the final instalment from ITTO; preparation of good quality technical reports resulting from the implementation of restoration project activities; and submission of project final financial audit report.

(4) PD 646/12 Rev.3 (F) Initiating the Conservation of Cempaka Tree Species (*Elmerrillia* spp) Through Plantation Development with Local Community Participation in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	564,037
ITTO Budget:		US\$	435,187
Government of Japan:	US\$	435,187	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	128,850

Implementing Agency:	Manado Forestry Research Institute (MFRI), Forestry Research and Development Agency (FORDA), Ministry of Forestry
Period of Approval:	Spring 2013
Starting Date and Duration:	February 2016 / 36 months

This project was approved under Spring 2013 Project Cycle but was financed at ITTC 50 in November 2014. The project agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in June 2015. After the completion of all administrative arrangements including the appointment of project personnel and preparation of an inception report with detailed yearly plans of operation, the Executing Agency commenced the project in February 2016.

In Northern Sulawesi, Indonesia, there is an increasing demand for Cempaka wood (*Elmerrillia ovalis*) as this wood has been used as raw materials for traditional houses (knocked down housing) which has proven against natural disasters. However, the supply of Cempaka wood has been reduced dramatically and the wood industry in the North Sulawesi has faced a big challenge with a declined supply of Cempaka wood. In light of the importance of improving sustainable development of Cempaka wood, the project is designed to promote sustainable forest management of Cempaka trees in north Sulawesi by addressing the social, environmental and economic sustainability. The specific objective of the project is to facilitate the conservation and plantations of Cempaka trees with the involvement of local communities in north Sulawesi. The expected outputs of the project include: (i) enhanced community capacity in Cempaka plantation development; (ii) increased participatory planting of Cempaka by the local community; and (iii) formulated an integrated policy on Cempaka conservation.

Since the Fifty-second Session of the Committee in November 2018, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Collection of Cempaka seeds from 6 sites have been completed for the improvement of appropriate techniques for Cempaka seed collection, storage and germination. Cempaka nursery plots for 120 provenances have been established and growing performance of Cempaka seedlings have been studied. Three small-scale nurseries at three villages have been established and Cempaka seedlings are ready for planting (about 25,000 seedlings).
- Three Districts for establishment of 18 ha demonstration site for Cempaka plantations for long-term research and training of local communities has been selected.. Agreement letters with land owners have been finalized and land preparation has started while waiting for the rainy season in the end of October 2019.
- To train local communities on Cempaka planting techniques at nursery and demonstration sites, three local consultants have been engaged. Appropriate incentives for local communities in Cempaka plantations are being reviewed and analysed.
- Initial review for the preparation of Integrated Strategic Management Plan for Cempaka in North Sulawesi is underway. A stakeholder forum at the provincial level will be established soon. To support the legality of Cempaka timber and timber products, the project will conduct a study on Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS, SVLK) and timber products accounting systems in the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry (MoEF).

The Fourth Meeting of the Project Steering Committee held on 11 September 2019 reviewed the slow progress of project implementation and urged the Executing Agency to fill the gap due to the slow progress in implementing YPO 2 and to take stronger speed actions to implement YPO 3. In particular, the Meeting requested the Head of MFRI to strengthen coordination and communication internally, among the different divisions and sections, and with EFORDIA as needed in order to ensure the full completion of implementation of thirteen activities under YPO 3 (October 2019-September 2020).

(5) PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F) Community Based Restoration and Sustainable Management of Vulnerable Forests of the Rewa Delta, Viti Levu, Fiji

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	387,511
ITTO Budget:		US\$	310,576
Government of Japan:	US\$	310,576	
Government of Fiji		US\$	76,935
Implementing Agency:	Department of Forest, Ministry of Fisheries and Forest, Republic of Fiji		
Period of Approval:	Autumn 2013		
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2015 / 36 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18 -0084)		

This project was approved in Autumn 2013 and its financing was made at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement regulating project implementation was finalized in June 2015. After concluding all administrative arrangements including a yearly plan of operation, the project became operational in October 2015. During the implementation of the project, it has faced several challenges including lack of engagement and commitment of relevant stakeholders, the project sites severely affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston in late February 2016 which thrashed the South Pacific island nation of Fiji, and a change of the government financial year. Based on such challenges, the project duration extension was granted until end of September 2019. As some project activities are still on-going, the Executing Agency is preparing a final extension proposal to fully complete all project activities.

The coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta (35,238 ha) of Fiji are undoubtedly a source of important marine and terrestrial resource for local communities in the area, but more importantly, these forests safeguard the entire coastal ecosystem that supports riparian flat lands. However, the wetlands have been affected by social and economic pressures. Excessive resources extraction has resulted in reduction in vegetation area and habitat loss as well as declining quality in livelihood opportunities. To address such problems, this project is designed to contribute to the sustainable management of coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta, while improving the livelihoods of local communities. Specifically, the project proposes: restoration and management of at least 3,381 hectares as demonstration site; training of 17 communities involved in awareness creation on the importance of wetlands; and development of alternative livelihood options to reduce overdependence on the coastal and mangrove wetland vegetation. The target community lies within the Tikina of Bau, Tailevu, a densely populated area in the Rewa Delta. Expected outputs of the project include the collation of key issues on coastal and mangrove wetlands and the formulation of relevant policy frameworks. In addition, the targeted communities are expected to adopt alternative livelihoods that will reduce pressure from over-utilization of coastal and mangrove wetland resources.

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

- Community awareness and alternate livelihood options: Trainings have been focused on i) raising awareness and improving the understanding of mangrove ecosystems and coastal ecosystems amongst the communities; ii) implementing an applied management action plan for the conservation of mangrove land and sustainable agricultural practices on sloping terrain; iii) capacity building through village-based natural resources committees; and iv) promoting alternative sustainable livelihoods through collaboration and technical support from partner agencies and organizations.
- Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded coastal mangrove ecosystems: Landuse mapping exercise for all 6 villages have completed to identify areas for plantations. Permanent nurseries have been established in all 6 villages with each village having a nursery attendant. It is near completion of

rehabilitation phase target including the planting of coastal, native, commercial and fruit bearing tree species.

- With collaboration with the Tailevu and Rewa Provincial Office, the project has established Nursery Distribution Centre in two provinces. The notion of establishing Nursery Distribution Centres is for the project to purchase seedlings and store it in the nursery which will then be later distributed to the communities. The Nursery Distribution Centre will also cater for other requests from communities residing in the two provinces and the Provincial Office will take liability in seedlings distribution to the communities once the ITTO Project phases out. This will also support the government initiatives of planting 4 million trees in the next 4 years.
- Development of mangrove management guidelines: The project has gathered local knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt that would contribute to the development of community-based mangrove management guidelines that communities located across Fiji's mangrove areas and other relevant stakeholders could consider, adopt and use. The draft guidelines are being finalized.

The project's Nursery Distribution Center and nurseries are meant for supplying nursery stock for a long time on permanent basis even after the completion of the project. The nursery has a wide variety of seedlings available which include coastal species, fruit trees and native trees. These trees will not only sustain them now and in the future but will also bring back those traditional fruit and medicinal trees which were present in the Rewa Delta area but were lost over time or remain scarce now. The target community now refrains from mangrove cutting as the project provides alternatives and changes in the way people think about the importance of mangrove conservation.

(6) PD 721/13 Rev.3 (F) Building a Participatory and Inclusive Sustainable Forest Management Process for the Reduction of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Ixil Forest Areas of the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, Guatemala

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	697,635.50
ITTO Budget:		US\$	440,873.00
Government of Japan:	US\$	440,873.00	
CALMECAC:		US\$	256,762.50

Implementing Agency: FUNDACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO INTEGRAL DEL HOMBRE Y SU ENTORNO – CALMECAC

Period of Approval: Rev.2: approved in Spring 2014
Rev.3: approved in Spring 2016

Starting Date and Duration: October 2017 / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and full financing for its implementation was pledged in March 2016 and was released by the donor in early 2017 once the financial impairment issue was resolved. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed and finalized in September 2017 and the Executing Agency commenced project implementation in October 2017.

Guatemala has followed the trend of accelerated deforestation and forest degradation in the tropics, which has led to risks, impacts and natural disasters. These problems have been aggravated by climate change and poverty, which are widespread throughout the region, increasing its vulnerability to natural phenomena. However, there are still extensive forest areas, many of which are traditionally managed by indigenous communities, as Guatemala currently holds the highest density of indigenous groups in Meso-America. In particular, the Department of Quiché has 7% of the national forest cover. However, these forests are threatened by new pressures from population growth and, more recently, from agro-industrial development. Therefore, there is an urgent need to carry out efforts to avoid the loss of forest resources and implement integrated development alternatives for the local communities.

In order to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, INAB and CALMECAC are seeking to develop a sustainable forest planning system and establish financial mechanisms derived from the management and conservation of resources and environmental services in the Department of Quiché, which can also serve as a climate change adaptation measure.

As such, this project seeks to enhance the sustainable forest management skills of local community forest organizations in the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché, with a view to reducing deforestation and forest degradation in the Xaclbal watershed area. Major outputs expected are: (1) a plan developed for community forests; (2) Good forest management practices agreed and developed for community forests to reduce deforestation and forest degradation; and (3) Sustainable forest management plans developed and implemented to ensure the conservation of community forests in the Municipality of Nebaj, Quiché. This is an innovative proposal as it links and creates social dynamics between different sectors for the development of new models of participatory management of natural resources, through sustainable forest management and conservation systems that will contribute to the development of benefit-sharing mechanisms at the local level within the framework of the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation initiative.

The project's second progress report submitted in February 2019 showing progress to early 2019 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish), shows satisfactory progress in activities under all of the above outputs; the second instalment of project funds was released following receipt of this report. The first project steering committee and project monitoring mission took place in October 2018 when all project activities were observed to be on track in accordance with the project workplan. The annual audit for 2018 was submitted to ITTO in July 2019. The second project steering committee and project monitoring mission (including field visit) will take place in December 2019 after the 55th ITTC session. The Committee may request the representative of Guatemala to brief it on project progress during 2019 since the required third project progress report had not been submitted to the Secretariat as of the time of preparation of this report.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	153,900
ITTO Budget:		US\$	140,000
Government of USA:	US\$	100,000	
Government of Korea:	US\$	40,000	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	13,900
Implementing Agency:	Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Government of Myanmar		
Period of Approval:	Rev.1 approval: Autumn 2013 Rev.2 approval: Spring 2015		
Starting Date and Duration:	June 2018 / 24 months		

The project was approved in Autumn 2013 but it was revised into two Phases by focusing on the capacity building of the Forest Research Institute on biodiversity research in Phase I. The revised project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle and Stage 1 of Phase I of the project was financed in 2017. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in December 2017. After finalizing the detailed work plans, the Stage 1 of Phase I became operational in June 2018.

The Taninthayi (Tenasserim) Mountain Range, located along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, covers a global important terrestrial eco-region with a transition zone from continental dry evergreen forests common in the north to semi-evergreen rain forests to the south. As a consequence, they contain some of the highest diversity of both bird and mammal species found in the Indo-Pacific region. The world's smallest mammal, Kitti's hog-nosed bat, equal in mass to a large bumblebee, resides in the limestone caves of this eco-region. However, these outstanding biodiversity features and cultural diversity of the Taninthayi Range are vulnerable due to poaching, fragmentation and encroachment for agriculture, illegal logging, settlements inside and around the park, and human-elephant conflicts. In addition, limited capacity

and resources for adequate biodiversity conservation in Myanmar make it unable to contribute to the transboundary biodiversity conservation in this eco-region.

The project aims to strengthen national capacity and resources for effective conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar. The activities of Stage 1 of Phase I include institutional capacity building of Myanmar for biodiversity conservation while Stage 2 of Phase I will be focusing on transboundary biodiversity conservation activities in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range in collaboration with Thai partners. The expected outputs include: i) enhanced capacity of the Forest Research Institute to design and implement biodiversity conservation, monitoring and research programmes in the Taninthayi Range; and ii) establishment of initial institutional mechanisms for the transboundary biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range.

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

- Public awareness and stakeholders' consultation: Three workshops and five consultation meetings with local communities and related organizations were organized from August 2018 to September 2019. These include a consultation workshop on promoting biodiversity conservation in trans-boundary areas on 26 June 2019 at Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Yezin; Regional workshop on promoting trans-boundary biodiversity conservation in Taninthayi Range on 26 September 2019 and a consultation meeting on strengthening community-based conservation organizations on 27 September 2019 at Myeik, Taninthayi Region.
- Capacity building of staff and local communities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods: These include training on agroforestry and livelihood development activities for local communities on 9 - 11 September 2018 at Forest Plantation Camp, Chaung Naut Pyan Village, Taninthayi Township; SMART patrolling training for Forest Department Staff on 21 - 23 August 2019 at FRI, Yezin; and training on development of community-based ecotourism for local communities on 23 - 25 September 2019 in Taninthayi City.
- Researches on socioeconomic assessment of seven villages in border areas in Taninthayi Township and survey of wildlife; Data analysis for the socioeconomic assessment has been completed and paper writing started. Survey on plant and wildlife in 15 plots (30 × 30 ft.) has been conducted and the number of wildlife species investigated is 25 sp. while bird species investigated are 30 sp. Production of promising non-timber forest products in 6 villages, including firewood and charcoal utilization by local villagers, has been analysed.
- Extension activities: Education talks were taken place at Taninthayi Township for 6 times. The project organized an event for the International Day of Forests at FRI, Yezin in March 2019 with partners. Meetings were held at FRI, Yezin to support the preparation and publication of guidelines for transboundary biodiversity conservation during February and April 2019.

The Executing Agency is expected to complete all project activities of Stage 1 under Phase I by May 2020 as planned and looks forward to the implementation of Stage 2 to increase the sustainability of the project.

(8) PD 740/14 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Management Through REDD+ Mechanisms in Kampong Thom Province (Cambodia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	561,022
ITTO Budget:		US\$	484,792
Government of Japan:	US\$	484,792	
Government of Cambodia		US\$	76,230

Implementing Agency: Forest Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration: September 2015 / 36 months

This project was approved under Autumn 2014 Project Cycle and was financed at ITTC 50 in November 2014. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in July 2014. A project launching ceremony was held on 23 July 2015 with the participation of key REDD+ stakeholders in the country. After completion of administrative arrangements including the detailed yearly plans of operation and appointment of project personnel, the project became operational in September 2015. As some project activities are still on-going, the Executing Agency is preparing an extension proposal without additional funds to fully complete all project activities.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in Kampong Thom province through the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. Its specific objective is to establish the institutionalization of REDD+ activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The project will address the key problem of the limited institutional capacity for promoting REDD+ activities to support sustainable forest management in Kampong Thom province. The project plans to advance REDD+ programmes in Cambodia by building on the experiences of those on-going REDD+ activities to standardize the procedures to meet, in an efficient and effective manner, the technical specifications of REDD+ jurisdictional standards to reduce the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The expected outputs of the project include: i) Stakeholder understanding and knowledge of REDD+ improved; ii) Research program on REDD+ in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province developed and implemented; and iii) REDD+ guidelines and training programs strengthened for effective design and implementation of REDD+ activities.

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

- A series of capacity building programs and supports have been arranged. These include: training for best practices of agriculture pesticides and fertilizer on cassava crop and soil quality improvement with participation of about 200 farmers; 6 capacity building trains for 36 farmers in the demonstration sites. About 40 members of community forestry management committees (CFMC) of 3 targeted community forestry have received training on the roles of community forestry in sustainable forest management. A training course on remote sensing (phase II) was organized for provincial level and a total of 51 participants attended and it identified forest restoration opportunities in Kbal Khal CF and Kbal Okroyak CF.
- Livelihoods of target communities in the Tumring Forest in Kampong Thom Province have been improved. The project established 3 agriculture demonstration sites in 3 targeted communities and distributed 750 cooking stoves to targeted villages in Kbal Khal CF and Kbal Okroyak CF. It also supported Kbal Khal CF with a set of water reservoir tanks with a storage capacity of 3,000 liters with solar panels. Production facilities for organic fertilizers were supported to Kbal Khla CF and Veal Okdey CF.
- Forest patrols were conducted in three community forest program areas. As a result, 12 illegal vehicles, 43 illegal logs, 6 illegally collected NTFPs, 1 illegal wild animal hunting, 26 illegal land encroachments and 2 chainsaws were confiscated.
- Research programs on REDD+ in the Tumring Forest in Kampong Thom Province have been implemented to reduce carbon emissions and enhance community livelihoods. Several draft technical reports resulting from the implementation of research programs have been prepared and they are being finalized. These include:
 - Assessment of existing benefit-sharing mechanisms in forestry and REDD+ projects towards designing an effective national REDD+ incentive allocation mechanism in Cambodia
 - Design, implement and monitor REDD+ safeguards in Kampong Thom Province
 - Development of sustainable financing strategy for REDD+ in Cambodia
 - Development of default and adjust of Forest Reference Emission Levels in Kampong Thom province

It is expected the Executing Agency will complete all project activities before the end of April 2020 and the project will be reported as completed at next Session of the Committee.

(9) PD 741/14 Rev.3 (F) Capacity Building for Sustainable Management of Tropical Dry Forests on the North Coast of Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	988,886
ITTO Budget:		US\$	437,478
Government of Japan:	US\$	437,478	
AIDER:		US\$	551,408
Implementing Agency:	ASOCIACION PARA LA INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO INTEGRAL (AIDER)		
Period of Approval:	Rev.2: approved in Autumn 2014 Rev.3: approved in Spring 2016		
Starting Date and Duration:	May 2017 / 30 months		

This project was approved under the Autumn 2014 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and full financing for its implementation was pledged in March 2016. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in April 2017 after release of project funds by the donor following resolution of the financial impairment. The Executing Agency completed submission of all required documentation in May 2017 to allow the first disbursement of funds to be sent and project implementation to commence.

This project addresses the limited capacities of key stakeholders to address the degradation of tropical dry forests on the north coast of Peru, covering the 3 departments that share this ecosystem: Tumbes, Piura and Lambayeque.

The project is improving the living standards for rural communities through the conservation and sustainable use of tropical dry forests; to this end, it is strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders to establish policies for the sustainable management of degraded dry forests. The intended outcomes include: improved forest management at the regional forest administration level; promotion of active public sector and civil society involvement in dialogue and consensus-building with a view to improving decision making on regional forest management; and strengthening of technical and operational capacities for community forest management on the north coast.

Activities carried out until 30 June 2019 were included in a detailed progress report submitted to the Secretariat in September 2019 (available on request; Spanish only). These are summarized by project activity in the following sections.

Activity 1.1 Development of training events on administrative and technical issues for regional public management for the SFM.

With the support of the project and in conjunction with JICA, the Training Workshop on the Forest Map Methodology for the North coast of Peru was held from May 27 to 31 in the city of Chiclayo. In order to improve the knowledge in GIS and Remote Sensing of the different officials and specialists on the subject of SERFOR and the regional governments of the north: Piura, Tumbes and Chiclayo. In addition, free software was used for the thematic mapping process.

Activity 2.1: Strengthening of coordination, dialogue and coordination spaces at the regional level with the participation of civil society

On May 17, with the support of the project, the meeting of the Dry Forest Researchers Network was held at the offices of ATFFS-SERFOR-Piura, which has the following objectives:

- Strengthening of the dry forest research network, to improve articulation of the public, private and civil society sectors.
- Strengthen capacities that allow research.
- Promote research, development and innovation in forest conservation and wildlife.
- Strengthen communication mechanisms and traditional knowledge of the dry forest.
- Take advantage of funds for scientific activities.
- Have a system for monitoring the current status of investigations.

The Macro-Regional Platform of Forests of the North Coast continues to be supported by the project, collaborating with meetings and strengthening the capacities of Regional Governments. The Regional Governments have managed to articulate with the UN REDD + project executed by the Ministry of Environment, who is supporting with a consultancy to identify strengthening needs and opportunities for partnerships; The project will collaborate with the actions identified in the framework of said consultancy.

The project has promoted three strategic alliances relevant to the development of projects for sustainable management of dry forests and restoration, following the recommendations of the last project board:

- Alliance with SERFOR for the elaboration of a project of forest plantations in dry forests, in border areas with Ecuador.
- Alliance with an international private fund for the design of a project on ecosystem services and deforestation-free value chains.
- Preliminary coordination with the Ministry of Environment for a proposal to be presented to GEF 7 on sustainable management of dry forests.

Activity 2.2: Design and implementation of a plan to disseminate the benefits of SFM for the public sector and civil society

After the field phase, in which the consultant collected all the necessary information from the Piura, Tumbes and Lambayeque region, the preliminary version of the Diffusion Plan on Forest Management in Dry Forest was delivered. The report has been finalized and delivered to ITTO.

Within the framework of the project, two teaching and dissemination learning materials on dry forest were developed. These materials are:

- Story: "El Algarrobito"
- Comic: "Shinamp"

Both materials were presented to forestry and regional authorities in the three regions: Piura, Tumbes and Lambayeque. In addition, schools in the region were sent copies to promote greater knowledge in children about the resources and importance of the dry forest.

Following the recommendations of the first PSC meeting of the project, the preparation of a video aimed at the general population is also being undertaken, with the aim of raising awareness about dry forests. Informative radio capsules have been produced on the importance of dry forests, which are being broadcast on local radio stations in Piura (Radio Cutivalu), Lambayeque (Radio Zone 5) and Tumbes (Radio Hechizera).

Activity 2.3: Development of awareness events aimed at the authorities, officials, forest users and the general public, at local and regional level, on the conservation of dry tropical forests of the north coast.

On May 23, with the support of the project, an activity was carried out for the day of biological diversity called "Conversation on the biological diversity of seasonally dry forests of northern Peru" led by SERFOR.

The experiences of sustainable management of dry forests promoted by the project were presented at strategic international events, taking advantage of the current inter-institutional alliances with key actors: NAP Expo of the UNFCCC in Songdo, Korea and Annual Meeting 20x20 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Activity 2.4: Development of social skills in the community members for their proactive participation in dialogue spaces

On May 28, a meeting was held at the premises of the AIDER office within the framework of the process to develop a rural development strategy based on climate change. The conversation took place with a group of women selected from rural and urban areas, and the following points were discussed:

- The role that women play in society
- Experiences in situations of climate change
- Consult women about climate change

With the support of the project and under the leadership of the National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Association for Integral Research and Development (AIDER) and the Central of Rural Communities of the Dry Forest (CECOBOSQUE), the First Community Forum was held: "Organized communities, sustainable forests" on May 24 in the auditorium of the Board of Users of the Middle and Lower Piura, whose purpose is to analyze the problem of the community organization, as well as guide and involve to community leaders and partners in the sustainable use and conservation of forests.

Activity 3.1: Training events in techniques and practices for the development and implementation of forest management plans

The project team participated in the Workshop: Good practices and regulations in the production of forest seeds, which was carried out at the facilities of INIA (National Institute of Agrarian Innovation) in the city of Chiclayo during the 29th and May 30. Coordination has been initiated to collaborate with the forest zoning process of the Tumbes region in the next semester of the project's implementation.

Conclusions

The project has managed to meet most of the goals set for the final year of implementation and the coordination of some pending activities that will be completed in the last semester of implementation have begun (the diffusion and announcement has begun for the photographic contest "Knowing the Dry Forests of the North Coast of Peru", which will take place in October; the third Regional Congress of Dry Forest - III COREFOR will take place in the month of December in Chiclayo).

The project is contributing to capacities regional governments for the management of dry forests. Likewise, the articulation of actions at the regional level is being improved with other initiatives related to the sustainable management of forests, and with direct intervention of SERFOR and civil society organizations.

With the participation in the different areas of forestry and dissemination on the management of dry forests that are of utmost importance for the country, actions and results have been articulated to the management tools at the national level. It has been possible to have a greater presence of officials and authorities of the dry forest sector in private and public spaces and initiatives, raising awareness of the importance of dry forests for the country.

The third project steering committee meeting took place in September 2019 when all project activities were seen to be on track. All reporting requirements for this project (including annual audits) have been met on time and it is expected that the Committee will be able to declare this project successfully completed at its session in 2020.

(10) PD 754/14 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	659,131
ITTO Budget:		US\$	541,031
Government of Japan:	US\$	541,031	
Counterpart (NGO Ce.Sa.Re.N):		US\$	118,100

Implementing Agency: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
CERCLE POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES (NGO Ce.Sa.Re.N)

Period of Approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: April 2017 / 36 months

The 36-month project was approved under Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded under Spring 2016 Project Cycle, thanks to the generous contribution of the Governments of Japan. The Project Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was considered as signed by all parties on 27 March 2017. The first disbursement of ITTO funds was made on 04 April 2017 to start the project implementation. The ITTO budget of this project was not impacted by the financial impairment issue.

The development objective of this project is to sustainably manage sacred forests within Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin through the sustainable management of 40 sacred forests within these sites, to be achieved by building the capacity of stakeholders to improve the living conditions of local communities. The specific objective of the project is to sustainably manage sacred forests within Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin by building the capacity of stakeholders to improve the living conditions of local populations.

Since the Fifty-second Session of the Committee and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and the monthly highlights submitted through the project online monitoring system, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- As a continuous and regular activity, the project executing agency continued the sensitization campaign, which started with the project inception workshop, on the roles and importance of Sacred Forests in Benin. Local entities (associations, cooperatives, local NGO) had been involved in the abovementioned sensitization campaign because of their capacity to directly interact with local communities living in areas covered by the implementation of this project;
- Simplified forest management plans (SFMP) for 42 Sacred Forests involved in the project implementation were technically approved and validated by the ministry in charge of forestry of Benin, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders;
- Local Management Committees have been established for the coordination of the management of 42 Sacred Forests with local authorities based on the recommendations of the socio-economic study in order to make available the socio-economic opportunities to be derived from the management of these 42 Sacred Forests, for the benefit of local communities;
- Around 68 hectares have been rehabilitated around sacred forests using the agroforestry system for the establishment of buffer zone contributing to reduce human pressure in sacred forests while also providing alternative income with food crops associated to planted trees;
- More than 160 hectares of sacred forests have been subject to the enrichment system with indigenous species for the improvement of biodiversity in these RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018.
- Consultation process has been initiated for the synergy and collaboration with nearby protected areas through the integrated landscape management approach;
- A technical study dealing with the identification of improved agriculture production systems (IAPS), in order to recommend appropriate ways and means to implement these identified IAPS, was finalised by a national consultant.

For the ground supervision of this project, by the ITTO Secretariat, the monitoring mission (third project steering committee meeting and field visits in selected Sacred Forests) is scheduled for October 2019, in consultation with the ITTO Focal Point in Benin.

(11) 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: Rev.1 approved in October 2014
Rev.2 approved in April 2016
Rev.3 approved in March 2017

Starting Date and Duration: December 2019 (expected) / 36 months

The third revised project accommodating a reduced budget was approved in March 2017 through the electronic approval system and the financing was made in 2017. The project agreement for regulating project implementation had been consulted with the Implementing Agency. After a long consultation with the country's concerned attorney authority and other institutions, the Implementing Agency completed its internal procedure for signing the project agreement. The project agreement was duly signed in February 2019. The Implementing Agency has prepared administrative arrangements for the commencement of the project in accordance with the rules and procedures of ITTO and PNG FA.

The development objective of the project aims to improve sustainable forest management practices through enhanced community livelihoods and social stability. It is a follow-up to the PNG Forest Authority's

Forestry and Climate Change Framework for Action (2009-2015) which highlights the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to community forest management (CFM) programming that engages customary landowners at the local level and enhances the capacity of government institutions at the national level. Specifically the project is to establish a model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that supports CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+) and increases landowner understanding about the goods and services that forests provide. Project activities will be working in collaboration with 6 CFM partners and their pilot landowner groups at the local level. This arrangement has the potential for ongoing replication in the future.

The project will deliver four specific outputs, namely i) Participatory data collection technology is improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; ii) Clan groups are participating appropriately in the National Land Development Program; iii) A data management system is engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and iv) Policy and planning guidelines for CFM are in place.

The Implementing Agency has reviewed the administrative arrangements for project implementation, including selection of a competent national project manager, and prepared a detailed implementation plan. It is expected that the project will commence its work in December 2019.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	358,180
ITTO Budget:		US\$	250,000
CBD:	US\$	100,000	
Government of USA:	US\$	150,000	
FCG		US\$	108,180

Implementing Agency: FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)

Period of Approval: Rev.2: approved in Spring 2015
Rev.3: approved in Spring 2017
Rev.4: approved in Fall 2017

Starting Date and Duration: June 2018 / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and partial financing was pledged at the 51st and 52nd ITTC Sessions in 2015 and 2016. Following revision of the proposal to take account of the partial funding available, INAB decided that it wished to oversee the project but not to act as the Executing Agency (EA), and it nominated FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) as the new EA. The project document was therefore revised a final time and was approved through ITTO's online no-objection procedure in September 2017. The project agreement of Phase I was finally signed in May 2018 following delays in finalizing the CBD contribution to the project and implementation commenced the following month.

Guatemala has a forest cover (2010) of 3,722,595 hectares, which accounts for 34% of the national territory. In 2006 the country's forest cover was estimated at 3,868,708 ha; these figures represent a net loss of 146,112 hectares of forest, which is equivalent to a net deforestation rate of 1.0% annually at the national level (with respect to existing forests in 2006). This situation has become particularly crucial as Guatemala has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to extreme climatic events and other adverse climatic conditions, adding to the problems of loss of biodiversity and reduction of forest goods and services.

Over the last two decades, Guatemala has promoted policy instruments for forest conservation, management and reforestation through the Forest Incentives Programme (PINFOR) and the Forest Incentives Programme for Small Forestry and Agroforestry Landholders (PINPEP), developing regulatory, technical and planning tools to facilitate their implementation. However, despite the progress made in the administration and sustainable use of forest resources in the country, none of these policy instruments has specifically addressed the issue of forest landscape restoration through the use of one of the aforementioned tools.

The Forest Landscape Restoration Board has developed a Forest Restoration Map, where a total of 3,989,465 hectares has been identified as a potential area for restoration, which has been divided into four categories: a) protected areas; b) riparian areas; c) mangrove forest areas; and d) areas suitable for forestry with gradients of more than 50% and high water recharge capacity.

This project is undertaking forest landscape restoration actions in pilot restoration sites established in accordance with the "ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests", focused on 4 strategic forest ecosystems that have been prioritized by the National Forest Institute (INAB) and the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) - cloud forests, dry forests, pine-oak forests and mangrove forests.

The project's development objective is to "reduce forest degradation and improve the restoration of forest ecosystems in Guatemala". Its specific objective is to "improve forest landscape restoration actions through the implementation of a forest restoration mechanism based on ITTO guidelines with the broad participation of key stakeholders in prioritized strategic ecosystems".

The executing agency has made good progress on project implementation in 2019 based on a progress report submitted to the Secretariat in September 2019 covering the period to the end of July (available on request, Spanish only). Work is well under way on restoration activities in the 4 pilot sites and agreements have been reached with local stakeholders. A first draft of a national adaptation of ITTO's guidelines for the restoration of natural tropical forests has been completed and is undergoing review in a series of regional workshops.

The annual financial audit for 2018 was submitted to ITTO by the executing agency on time and was approved by the Secretariat. A second project monitoring visit by the Secretariat is scheduled to take place in December 2019 following ITTC 55.

(13) PD 777/15 Rev.3 (F) Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	643,616
ITTO Budget:		US\$	515,590
Government of Japan:	US\$	515,590	
Government of Indonesia:		US\$	128,026

Implementing Agency: Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park Authority (GGPNP), Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF)

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approved in October 2015
Rev.2 approved in April 2016.
Rev.3 approved in March 2017

Starting Date and Duration: August 2018 / 36 months

This project was approved in the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle and financing was made in April 2016. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in January 2018 after ITTO suspension period of payments to all projects from June to December 2016. After completion of the required

administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project including a detailed yearly plan of operation, the project became operational in August 2018.

The project aims to contribute to restoring the conservation and development functions of the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) in West Java province of Indonesia, with a total area of approximately 114,779 hectares. The CBR is one of the most important biosphere reserves of Indonesia due mainly to its rich and unique biodiversity. It is also a well-known tourist destination due to its relatively good accessibility and a vital source of water for lives of about thirty million people residing in the Capital City of Jakarta and other smaller cities as well as municipalities located around the reserve.

Its specific objective is to improve conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems in CBR through implementation of the Integrated Strategic Management Plan through delivery of three outputs, namely: i) threat on biodiversity in the core area significantly reduced, ii) land use best practices in CBR buffer and transition zones demonstrated and promoted, and iii) institutional arrangements for CBR management enhanced.

Since the commencement of the project in August 2018, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- The first PSC meeting was held on 12 February 2019 at the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and provided a set of recommendations including strengthening internal communication systems for transparency and efficiency of the communications between the Director of GGNP, project coordinator and Technical Advisory Committee; and enhancing internal monitoring of project implementation by using and updating the indicators specified in the logical framework of the project.
- A survey was conducted to identify the potential of economic and social development of local community in the core area of GGNP of Bogor, Sukabumi and Cianjur regions. Assessment of the economic and social aspects of the targeted communities is underway.
- Review of existing land use plans in the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve is underway with development of sustainable livelihood models for demonstration and training in collaboration with local communities and private firms. It will be completed by December 2019. Establishing Coordination and Communication Forum of the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) is underway. A consultation meeting was organized in August 2019 in Bandung with participation of key stakeholders including representatives from the provincial government, local governments, local communities and academic society.
- CBR information system has been established. The CBR website was already designed and updated with news from project activities and other informational materials. The website is accessible from www.itto-cbr.id and it will be integrated into the GGNP website in the second year. The project team shared the project work at National Seminar on Environmental Entrepreneurship "Protect Environment, Protect Your Business, Protect Commitment to Sustainability" held in Pakuan University, Bogor on 25 April 2019. The project coordinator made a presentation at a side event "Forest transition, forest landscape restoration and forest ecosystem services" which was organized at the Asia Pacific Forestry Week (APFW) 2019 in Incheon, Korea on 17 – 21 June 2019.

In order to improve the efficient and effective implementation of the project and the communication and outreach of the project within the country, the Executing Agency requested the replacement of the project coordinator. In view of the importance of undertaking effective consultations, the project coordinator's replacement proposal was approved in August 2019. The new project coordinator has been proactive to advance the implement of the project in accordance with the rules and procedures of ITTO and MoEF.

B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

None.

C. PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

- (1) **PD 712/13 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra, Indonesia**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	843,364
ITTO Budget:	US\$	498,154
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	52,200
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners	US\$	293,010

Implementing Agency: Centre for Conservation and Rehabilitation R&D, Forestry Research and Development Agency (FPRDA), Ministry of Forestry (MOF)

Period of Approval: Spring 2014

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and its validity was extended based on a request from the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Forestry based on the rules and procedures of ITTO, The project was partially funded in the amount of US\$100,000 (Republic of Korea) during the ITTC 54 in November 2018. If sufficient funding (at least an additional fund of US\$100,000) to start the implementation of this project is not secured before May 2020, this project will be sunset in that time (26 months after the funding date – ITTO sunset provision).

The Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) covering an area of approximately 705,000 ha in the province of Riau, Sumatra has been recognized as a public-private partnership biosphere reserve by the UNESCO World Monitoring Networks in 2009. However, this biosphere reserve has not been sustainably managed. The main problems include weaknesses in planning framework of GSK-BR without an integrated strategic management plan, weak capacity of concerned institutions in implementing the biosphere reserve concept and poor participation of local communities in management operations. Therefore, the project is designed to initiate an effective implementation framework of sustainable management and conservation of GSK-BR by realizing the management objectives and basic functions of GSK-BR. More specifically, it aims at promoting the sustainable management and conservation of the reserve in an effective manner. The expected outputs are: i) enhanced planning framework of GSK-BR; ii) strengthened institutional capacity to sustainably manage GSK-BR; and iii) promoted partnerships between key stakeholders on the operational management of GSK-BR. All planned activities including the development of an integrated management plan will be implemented collaboratively by local institutions and stakeholders, Ministry of Forestry, provincial government of Riau, Sinarmas Forestry and Partners as well as local communities and local research and development institutions.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	487,762
ITTO Budget:	US\$	459,962
Government of Myanmar:	US\$	27,800

Implementing Agency: Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Government of Myanmar

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approval: Autumn 2013
Rev.2 approval: Spring 2015

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase I Stage 2 - 36 months

The project was approved in Autumn 2013 but revised into two Phases by focusing on the capacity building of the Forest Research Institute on biodiversity research in Phase I. The revised project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle and Stage 2 of Phase I is waiting for financing. Phase I Stage 2 of the project will commence, if funded, following completion of Phase I Stage 1. It is expected that Stage 1 of Phase I will complete its activities in May 2020.

The Taninthayi (Tenasserim) Mountain Range, located along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, covers a global important terrestrial eco-region with a transition zone from continental dry evergreen forests common in the north to semi-evergreen rain forests to the south. As a consequence, they contain some of the highest diversity of both bird and mammal species found in the Indo-Pacific region. The world's smallest mammal, Kitti's hog-nosed bat, equal in mass to a large bumblebee, resides in the limestone caves of this eco-region. However, limited capacity and resources for adequate biodiversity conservation in Myanmar make it unable to contribute to the transboundary biodiversity conservation in this eco-region.

The project aims to strengthen national capacity and resources for effective conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar. The activities of Phase I include institutional capacity building of Myanmar for biodiversity conservation while the Phase II activities are focused on transboundary biodiversity conservation activities in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range in collaboration with Thai partners. The expected outputs include: i) capacity building of national institutions to design and implement biodiversity conservation, monitoring and research programmes in the Taninthayi Range; ii) establishment of initial institutional mechanisms for the transboundary biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range; and iii) strengthening of local stakeholder participation and livelihoods of forest-dependent local communities in the transboundary biodiversity conservation areas. At the national level, the project will contribute to establishing transboundary biodiversity conservation programmes and activities that can be further enhanced in the Taninthayi Range between Myanmar and Thailand.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	460,124
ITTO Budget:	US\$	351,944
FCG:	US\$	108,180

Implementing Agency: FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)

Period of Approval: Rev.2: approved in Spring 2015
Rev.3: approved in Spring 2017
Rev.4: approved I in Fall 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and partial financing was pledged by CBD and USA at the 51st and 52nd ITTC Sessions in 2015 and 2016. Following revision of the proposal into two Phases to take account of the partial funding available, INAB decided that it wished to oversee the project but not to act as the Executing Agency (EA), and it nominated FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN

GUATEMALA (FCG) as the new EA. The project document was therefore revised a final time and was approved through ITTO's online no-objection procedure in September 2017. The project agreement for Phase I was finally signed in May 2018 following delays in finalizing the CBD contribution to the project and implementation commenced the following month.

Phase II of the project will commence, if funded, following completion of Phase I.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	708,093
ITTO Budget:	US\$	466,893
INISEFOR-UNA	US\$	72,000
CODEFORSA	US\$	169,200

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

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

(5) PD 808/16 Rev.3 (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 (Côte d'Ivoire)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	865,560
ITTO Budget:	US\$	583,043
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	282,517

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

Period of Approval: September 2019
Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 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 current 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.

(6) PD 818/16 Rev.3 (F) "BOSS - CUSHABATAY" Project – Forest Management and Restoration in the Cushabatay Basin on the Eastern Slope of the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ), Peru (Peru)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	842,347
ITTO Budget:	US\$	454,558
CIMA – Cordillera Azul:	US\$	237,549
Other sources:	US\$	150,240

Implementing Agency: CENTRO DE CONSERVACIÓN, INVESTIGACIÓN Y MANEJO DE ÁREAS NATURALES – CORDILLERA AZUL (CIMA CORDILLERA AZUL)

Period of Approval: September 2019
Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project is in accordance with to national goals with concrete actions, in the framework of the commitments undertaken by Peru and the national policies for forest restoration, conservation and sustainable use for the benefit of the population. The project is located in the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ) buffer zone and aims to achieve sustainable management and restoration of the Cushabatay Basin forests and adjacent areas in the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ) buffer zone. The project is consistent with the strategic priorities of ITTO and in particular with SDG 15.2 and 15.3 as well as the Aichi Targets 5 and 15.

Thus it will contribute to forest and biodiversity restoration in that section of the vast PNCAZ buffer zone and will improve community living standards of the communities in the Cushabatay River basin and adjacent areas in the Cordillera Azul National Park Buffer Zone (PNCAZ). Specifically, it will intend to restore and sustainably manage The forests of the Cushabatay basin and adjacent areas in the Cordillera Azul National Park Buffer Zone (PNCAZ) The project expected outputs will be: i) The main economic stakeholders (timber producers, farmers, investors) align their interests and implement a vision for sustainable forest use and biodiversity; ii) Technical capacity of key stakeholders for forest management and restoration has been strengthened; and iii) Development and implementation of strategies and models for forest restoration and sustainable management.

(7) PD 836/17 Rev.1 (F) Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Monduliri Provinces of Cambodia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	595,951
ITTO Budget:	US\$	514,651
Government of Cambodia :	US\$	81,300

Implementing Agency: FOREST ADMINISTRATION OF CAMBODIA

Session of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was partially funded in the amount of US\$100,000 (Republic of Korea) during the ITTC 54 in November 2018. If sufficient funding (at least an additional fund of US\$100,000) to start the implementation of this project is not secured before May 2020, this project will be sunset in that time (26 months after the funding date – ITTO sunset provision).

The proposed project aims to accelerate development of community forestry and increase its contribution to livelihoods of the local communities and to promotion of SFM in Cambodia in an effort to promote community-based SFM and alleviate poverty in local communities. Its specific objective is to enhance the capacity of local communities and Forest Administration to effectively implement CFP in Kratie and Monduliri provinces among the richest regions with forest resource and the highest deforestation rate at the same time. The expected outputs of the project are: i) enhanced capacity of local communities and forest administration in forest management planning, ii) capacity of local communities to operationalize approved forest management plans promoted, and iii) capacity of Forest Administration in monitoring and reporting of forest operations by individual Community Forestry Management Units (CFMUs) elevated.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

The development objective of the proposed project is to reduce the existing tenure-based conflicts through developing appropriate model on state forest and develop general guideline conflict resolution that can be applied on a national scope. The expected outputs of the project are: 1) laws, regulations, and law

enforcement strengthened; 2) appropriate model on tenure-based conflict resolution established; 3) demand on land for agriculture decreased, and 4) community rights highly recognized. At the end of the project, it is expected that the current tenure-based conflicts especially at the forest management unit (KPH) level decreased, so that it can accelerate sustainable forestry development. In addition, the capacity of the KPH officers in managing forestry-related conflict is also enhanced and local institutions and people welfare are also improved.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was partially funded in the amount of US\$100,000 (USA) during the ITTC 54 in November 2018. If sufficient funding (at least an additional fund of US\$100,000) to start the implementation of this project is not secured before May 2020, this project will be sunset in that time (26 months after the funding date – ITTO sunset provision).

Commercial reforestation rates in Costa Rica have been decreasing since the early 2010s, reducing the timber supply for the domestic market, which in turn has led to increased risks of illegal logging in natural forests both in protected areas and in private forest lands. Furthermore, reduced reforestation rates are expected to cause the loss of employment opportunities, to foster the use of timber substitutes and, at the global level, limit the country's possibilities to achieve REDD+ targets. This project will increase commercial reforestation competitiveness in Costa Rica, with a view to fulfilling the Costa Rican need for forest products and providing the country with the opportunity to increase greenhouse gas sequestration and achieve the country's REDD+ targets. The project seeks to develop and test an effective reforestation financing system that promotes management of forest plantations in the country, increases their m³/hectare/year productivity, and develops high value-added timber products to improve forest producers' income.

(10) PD 852/17 Rev.3 (F) Development of a Regional Strategy for the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas on the South Coast of Peru (Peru)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	403,227
ITTO Budget:	US\$	149,968
FDA:	US\$	111,259
BENEFICIARIES:	US\$	142,000

Implementing Agency: FOUNDATION FOR AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT (FDA)

Collaborating Agencies: NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERFOR) OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

Initiative 20x20 has been launched through the World Resources Institute (WRI) at the 20th Conference of the Parties (COP20) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is a country-led initiative to change land restoration dynamics in Latin America with the aim to contribute to global efforts in this field by undertaking a commitment to restore 20 million hectares of degraded lands by 2020. The overall target will be achieved by fulfilling a combination of goals related to resilient and climatically sustainable agroforestry; agro-pastoral activities; agricultural improvement; and natural reforestation, among others. It also includes avoided deforestation and the implementation of land restoration programs, requiring an initial investment of \$100 million from private sources.

In this context, the project will contribute to Provide a land management tool to improve environmental and socioeconomic conditions in the southern coastal region of Peru through the restoration of degraded lands and population access to sustainable forest and agroforestry systems. It will specifically contribute to Develop a concerted participatory strategy for the planning of degraded landscape restoration actions to support environmental and socioeconomic sustainability on the south coast of Peru. The expected outputs of the projects will be: i) Map and descriptive report of degraded lands and ecosystems suitable for restoration and rehabilitation; ii) Strategy and action plan for the restoration and rehabilitation of identified and demarcated lands; and iii) Project document on the restoration and rehabilitation of 100,000 ha of degraded lands.

(11) PD 853/17 Rev.2 (F) Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	813,781
ITTO Budget:	US\$	441,045
Government of Peru :	US\$	372,736

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERFOR) OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (MINAGRI)

Session of Approval: August 2017

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

Inadequate and illegal use of fire and the lack of awareness about its negative effects on the environment and human health are causing major forest fires, leading to a loss of large forest areas and the disturbance of countless natural processes. In Peru, and particularly in the departments of Cajamarca, Pasco, Junin and Cusco, this problem is aggravated in communities with an ancestral tradition of burning practices to attract rain or as a technique to clear stubble vegetation left behind by agricultural activities. This results in a high incidence of wildfires in natural forests, other wild vegetation formations and forest plantations.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the conservation of forest ecosystems and other wild vegetation threatened by forest fires, while its specific objective is to reduce the occurrence of forest fires through capacity strengthening in forest fire prevention and response aimed at local communities and local authorities. Expected project outputs include: best forest and agricultural waste practices; public and private institutions effectively managing forest fire prevention and response protocols; efficient forest fire monitoring system; and population trained on forest fire impacts. In order to achieve these outputs, the project will raise awareness among agricultural producers regarding best forest and agricultural waste management practices, will strengthen social organizations and will ensure coordination between public and private institutions. In addition, the project will coordinate with institutions equipped with early-warning and information systems and will disseminate forest-related regulations.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	582,521
ITTO Budget:	US\$	380,000
Government of Peru :	US\$	202,521

Implementing Agency: ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AIDER)

Session of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

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

The implementation of the project will contribute to landscape and biodiversity conservation and to the improvement of the quality of life of the population settled in the sub-watershed region, as well as to the improvement of local governance for landscape restoration. It specifically intends to improve local governance for landscape restoration in the San Alejandro River sub-watershed, Padre Abad Province, Department of Ucayali. The project's expected outputs are: i) Public administration in charge of landscape restoration strengthened, ii) Landscape restoration skills of local communities strengthened, and iii) Civil society aware of and involved in landscape restoration. Planned activities include a biophysical diagnosis of the landscape in the San Alejandro River sub-watershed.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: FOUNDATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN GUATEMALA – FCG

Session of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project is located in the Tacaná volcano and its area of influence in Guatemala and Mexico, and is based on the outcomes of project PD 668/12 Rev. 2 (F), which was financially and technically supported by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation Guatemala, INAB, CONAFOR, CONAP, CONANP, Municipal Governments and community organisation and representative roundtables. The specific objective of the project is to develop mechanisms that strengthen governance and consolidate a sustainable development model based on successful initiatives for the use, sustainable management, conservation and restoration of the forest, biodiversity and ecosystem services at Tacaná Volcano and its area of influence in Mexico and Guatemala. In this respect, the project will implement an innovative socio-institutional approach to project

coordination and implementation, apply lessons learned and achieve greater impact by mainstreaming successful experiences in forest, biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation and sustainable use, developed in Phase I. Consolidating forest conservation and sustainable use actions requires local governance that allows for collective agreements to achieve sustainable socio-ecological processes as the basis for economic development in a land context that supports it.

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

(14) PD 877/18 Rev.2 (F) Taper and Commercial Volume Systems for the Planning of the Sustainable Management of Ten Tropical Forest Species in Quintana Roo, Mexico (Mexico)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	189,755
ITTO Budget:	US\$	144,512
MEXICO (INIFAP):	US\$	45,243

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR FOREST, AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK RESEARCH (INIFAP) – INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY OF THE MAYA ZONE (ITZM)

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

In Quintana Roo, equations to estimate clean stem and whole tree volumes were generated in 1976 and 1993, but their reliability is unknown and they do not conform to current conditions in the tropical forests of the state. This in turn has led to a reduction in volumes as a result of the effect of the volume shape factor, which has decreased in the last two decades due to the opening of forest clearings. In view of this, this project aims to analyze biometric information for ten species through collection of field data and information on the development of stem, branch, commercial and whole tree volume equations as well as taper-commercial volume systems. These species are commercially important in Quintana Roo and include *Platymiscium yucatanum*, *Bucida buceras*, *Simarouba glauca*, *Brosimum alicastrum*, *Cordia dodecandra*, *Pseudobombax ellipticum*, *Sickingia salvadorensis*, *Pouteria campechiana*, *Caesalpinia gaumeri* and *Aspidosperma megalocarpum*. This research will be achieved with assistance of research and education institutions, local governments, ejidos and small resource owners, as well as technical service providers, Forest Management Units (UMAFORS) and sector organizations.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This 36-month project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54th session of the Council. It could start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution is made available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as “Sunset”, unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Session of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This proposal originates from a recommendation of Project PD 415/06 Rev.2 (M) "Systematisation and Modelling of Economic and Technical Information to Train Professionals Related to the Production, Processing and Marketing of Timber Products", implemented by the University of Tolima through an Agreement with ITTO and the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) of the Republic of Colombia. The management of the secondary natural forests of the collective territory of Bajo Calima, located in the Colombian Pacific plateau bio-geographic region, has been allocated to Afro-descendant communities through their Community Councils, but due to the lack of sustainable management, the natural environment in the area has been degraded.

The project seeks to contribute to the implementation of management, conservation and restoration programmes for strategic ecosystems in the Pacific region of Colombia, based on enrichment and agroforestry systems established and managed under a sustainable approach. More specifically, it will contribute to launch a participatory process with a gender focus to achieve sustainable management of secondary natural forests and collective lands in Bajo Calima, Republic of Colombia. The project expected outputs will be: i) Line enrichment planting and agroforestry systems for secondary natural forests have been established and managed as pilot areas; ii) Trained teachers, community leaders, and farmers apply their knowledge in community organisation, administrative tasks, use, management and conservation of natural resources; and iii) Research-action program developed and implemented.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 48 months

This 48-month project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54th session of the Council. It could start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution is made available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

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

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

competitive products in adequate quantities, and of good conformation and quality resulting in higher material yields.

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

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 40 months

This 40-month project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and added on the list of projects pending finance for the 54th session of the Council. It could start implementation as soon as earmarked funds for the total ITTO contribution is made available in the Special Account within a period of 20 months after approval. After the 20-month validity period, this project will be acknowledged as "Sunset", unless it is revised and then resubmitted to the Council for decision prior to the end of the validity period for review, at the option of the submitting member state.

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

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

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

(19) PD 890/18 Rev.2 (F) Rehabilitation of the Upper Bandama Gazetted Forest in the North of Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of the Local People (Côte d'Ivoire)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	754,771
ITTO Budget:	US\$	583,785
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	170,986

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

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The gazetted forests in the northern area of the Côte d'Ivoire (the Tchologo region whose regional capital is Ferkessédougou) and specifically the Upper Bandama (Bandama Supérieur) gazetted forests are in an advanced state of degradation due to the combined effects of uncontrolled bush fires/extensive slash and burn agriculture (a current agricultural practice), extensive livestock rearing and the transhumance of animals.

Consequently, the community's high demand for fuelwood has resulted in indiscriminate harvesting of this product in this gazetted forest. The aim of this project is to rehabilitate the Upper Bandama gazetted forest in an inclusive way by significantly diminishing the demand for fuelwood, building up its construction timber production capacity and incorporating the need for grazing land and permanent watering points for nomad cattle drivers. Finally, the project aims to conduct outreach activities with households about the new energy-saving technologies to reduce their fuelwood and charcoal consumption.

(20) PD 891/18 Rev.1 (F) Bamboo for Life: An Alternative for the Rehabilitation of Degraded Forest Lands and Sustainable Rural Development in the San Martin Region, Peru (Peru)

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: PERUVIAN BAMBOO ASSOCIATION – PERUBAMBU

Session of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

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

(21) PD 894/19 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening of Community Forest Management in Peru (Peru)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	865,565
ITTO Budget:	US\$	571,879
AIDER (counterpart contribution):	US\$	293,686

Implementing Agency: ASSOCIATION FOR INTEGRATED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (AIDER)

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

One of the main problems identified in relation to the situation of forests on community lands is the poor implementation of community forest management activities at the national level, due to the low level of management actions taken by the national and regional forest authorities for the establishment and operation of forest and wildlife management units (UGFFS) and technical community forest management units (UTMFC). The reasons for this include: limited technical-regulatory and management knowledge for the implementation of UTMFCs; weak interaction between native and rural communities, forest authorities and other public and private organizations; and limited availability of operational and human resources in forest agencies for the implementation, management and operation of UGFFSs and UTMFCs.

The project will contribute to community forest management (CFM) in order to improve the quality of life of native and rural communities that are users of forest and wildlife resources. Specifically, it will intend to strengthen community forest management through the establishment and implementation of community forest management technical units (UTMFCs) at the national level, this project will contribute to strengthening community forest management with a view to improving the quality of life of native and rural communities that are users of forest and wildlife resources. Expected project outputs will be: i) efficient management of national and regional forest authorities to establish and manage UTMFCs; ii) technical, organizational and management capacities of native and rural communities strengthened for the implementation of community forest management (CFM) actions; iii) and community organizations strengthened for the implementation of CFM.

(22) PD 895/19 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening the Participation of Women in Rural Communities for the Development of Ecotourism Service Enterprises and Sustainable Business Models on the Coast of Veracruz, Mexico (Mexico)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	256,362
ITTO Budget:	US\$	155,599
Government of Mexico:	US\$	100,763

Implementing Agency: INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY A.C.

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

This project will be implemented in the State of Veracruz, Mexico, in the Gulf of Mexico area. It will incorporate and involve women in production and in the conservation and restoration of mangroves and flood forests. The project will firstly seek to develop the role of women as members of society, and to develop and expand women's skills. Secondly, it will aim to boost women's involvement and foster their inclusion in activities such as the manufacture and sale of arts and crafts, improving forest-related production practices, establishment of nurseries for restoration, and ecotourism operation and administration, through training in administration, customer service, and the sale of food and arts and crafts, and establishment of points of sale associated with ecotourism. Ecotourism activities produce immediate income for the population, although it is

necessary to improve overall skills, and not only provide for women's inclusion. Spaces and training will be designed to provide security and personal development, thus promoting their easier incorporation into production systems. Holistic training will be provided to five groups of women and four ecotourism groups with different skill levels, implementing strategies including development of a curriculum for women empowerment and one for community ecotourism, creation of a women's house or space for meetings and training, and network interaction among the groups.

(23) PD 905/19 Rev.1 (F) Providing Support for the Sustainable Management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in the Savanna Region in Togo (Togo)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget: US\$ 650,185

ITTO Budget: US\$ 504,194

Government of Togo US\$ 145,991

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

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The Fosse-aux-Lions gazetted forest was once a superb reserve for fauna and flora. However, as a result 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.

D. PROJECTS TO BE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE TERMINATION PROCESS

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget: US\$ 899,832

ITTO Budget: US\$ 594,432

Government of Japan: US\$ 514,432

Government of France: US\$ 60,000

Government of Norway: US\$ 20,000

Government of Gabon: US\$ 305,400

Implementing Agency: Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XL, May-June 2006, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico

Starting Date and Duration: March 2009 / 36 months

Approved Revised Dates of Project Completion:	First extension: until March 2013 (NOLF.12-0274) Second extension: until December 2014 (NOLF.14-0300) Third extension: until December 2015 (NOLF.15-0005)
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The Council approved the project at its Fortieth Session in Merida, Mexico, in June 2006. Financing was not allocated at that time, but it was fully funded at the Forty-first Council Session, in November 2006, in Yokohama, Japan. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 13 March 2007 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in March 2009. Two project extensions were granted until December 2014, without additional ITTO funds, by the ITTO Secretariat, based on official requests including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plan and budget. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in August 2016, the project operation period had lasted 89 months instead of 36 initially designed by the implementing agency (Direction Générale des Eaux et Forêts).

The project aimed to contribute to the sustainable management of the rural forest estate and organizing the village estates and combating poverty in the communities established in the rural areas through the development of community forests. The specific objectives were as follows: (1) to experiment the establishment of three pilot community forests and (2) to develop SFM guidelines for community forests from the model forest experiment.

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report was pending at the time of the preparation of the CRF(L)/3 Document, last year. However, upon receipt of a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report by the Secretariat prior to its Fifty-first Session in December 2017, the Committee may wish to declare this project completed. Soft copies of abovementioned Completion Report and other documents can be made available by the Secretariat upon written request.

During its 51st session, the Committee was informed that the Secretariat received the Completion Report, in August 2016, without submitting the Final Financial Audit Report (FFAR). That's why the Committee urged the Executing Agency to strictly abide to ITTO's rules and procedures and submit the Final Financial Audit Report, at its earliest convenience, but not later than end of March 2018. The FFAR was not submitted at the time of the preparation of Committee documents yet. The Committee could consider the termination of this project, as the project implementing team was no longer responding to the reminder messages sent by the ITTO Secretariat.

As a final attempt, the ITTO Secretariat contacted the Executing Agency for a reminder in order to urge them for the submission of the Final Financial Audit Report (FFAR), so that the project could be reported as completed if the FFAR is considered as satisfactory. If the FFAR is not submitted in due time, by the time of the holding of the 53rd Committee Session, the Committee could consider to recommend the termination of this project, in conformity with the ITTO's rules and procedures applying to projects.

(2) PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable, Mixed and Pure Forest Plantation Development in the Transitional Zone of Ghana's Biakoye District Assembly, Employing Poverty Reduction Strategies (Ghana)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	324,088
ITTO Budget:		US\$	245,272
Government of Japan:	US\$	245,272	
Government of Ghana:		US\$	78,816

Implementing Agency:	PICODEV-Ghana
Period of Approval:	April 2012
Starting Date and Duration:	May 2013 / 24 months

The 24-month project was approved under Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012, thanks to

the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. The Project Agreement had been signed by the parties in January 2013. The project initiated implementation in May 2013 following the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in March 2016, the project operation period had lasted 34 months instead of 24 initially designed by the implementing agency (PICODEV-Ghana).

The project aimed at contributing to the sustained socio-economic development and environmental protection in the Biakoye area in Ghana's Volta Region, through the restoration of forest degraded lands with precious indigenous timber species and exotic timber species, with the involvement of local communities. It specifically intended to initiate a participatory poverty alleviation approach (innovative value adding cassava processing and sale) through a sustainable forest enrichment and plantation development using tropical timber species mixed with exotic species.

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

The ITTO Secretariat contacted the Executing Agency for a final reminder in order to urge them for the submission of the Final Financial Audit Report (FFAR), so that the project could be reported as completed if the FFAR is considered as satisfactory. If the FFAR is not submitted in due time, by the time of the holding of the 53rd Committee Session, the Committee could consider to recommend the termination of this project, in conformity with the ITTO's rules and procedures applying to projects.

PRE-ROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

There is one (1) approved pre-project is currently under implementation and one (1) pre-project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are two (2) approved pre-projects still awaiting full financing. In this report the pre-projects are grouped into three categories:

- A. Pre-projects under active implementation;
- B. Pre-projects which have financing allocated, but for which the contract or agreement regulating implementation has still not been concluded; and
- C. Pre-projects which still do not have full financing secured.

A. PRE-PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: *"LES AMIS DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT" ASSOCIATION (AMEN, civil society organisation) in collaboration with DIRECTORATE OF FOREST RESOURCES (DIRECTION DES RESSOURCES FORESTIÈRES-DRF)*

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

This 10-month pre-project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and it was fully funded during the 54th ITTC Session in November 2018, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. The Pre-project Agreement had been signed by the parties in March 2019. The Executing Agency initiated the pre-project implementation after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds on 28 May 2019.

This pre-project aims to draw a baseline study of Ecological Zone III in Togo in order to prepare a Project Document for the conservation and sustainable management of natural plant formations in the Mono Plain, Togo. The overarching concept behind this initiative is to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts resulting from the destruction of the ecosystems in this area and to help improve the living conditions of beneficiary communities. The main outputs will be: (1) data from forest, socio-economic, legal and environmental surveys on the project are available; (ii) a support strategy and project for promoting community forests and forest sustainable management among local communities in Togo are developed for submission to the ITTO.

The development of a future project is justified by the lack of data due to the outdated nature of existing studies on the area coupled with the non-availability of national expertise and the lack of material and financial resources. These shortcomings are major constraints for any direct formulation of a full project proposal.

In accordance with the pre-project's most recent progress report submitted by the Executing Agency, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The pre-project executing agency has carried out the sensitization campaign, in order to mobilize all relevant stakeholders on the objective of the pre-project which will be conducting studies and surveys for the stakeholder identification and for the collection of social, economic and environmental information, which will be useful for the development of a future project.
- National consultants have been selected and have been undertaking studies and surveys on legal aspects, forestry aspects, socio-economic aspects and environmental aspects in the target area of the future project with the goal to promoting community forests management.

For the smooth interaction of national consultants with stakeholders in the target area of the future project, a national consultation committee has been established in order to get all relevant stakeholders be involved in the process leading to the development of the future project.

B. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

(1) PPD 189/17 Rev.3 (F) Development of A Full Project Proposal to Generate Tools to Ensure the Establishment of Timber Forest Species Through Natural Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	103,410
ITTO Budget:	US\$	50,000
UNALM:	US\$	43,510
National Forestry Chamber (CNF)	US\$	9,900

Implementing Agency: National Forestry Chamber (CNF) in collaboration with National Agrarian University of La Molina (UNALM)

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 8 months

The pre-project was revised with a reduced ITTO budget based on the available funds and this revised project was approved in September 2018 through the electronic approval system. However, there was another need to revise the project to switch the Implementing Agency from UNALM to CNF due to UNALM's funds management related regulations. This proposal to change the Implementing Agency was approved in September 2019 through the electronic approval system. The draft pre-project agreement is under review.

The National Forest Chamber will start pre-project activities in collaboration with UNALM soon as the pre-project agreement is completed.

This pre-project seeks to validate a methodology to assess and monitor the regeneration and phenology of commercial species so as to develop a full project proposal aiming at establishing robust monitoring systems of 4 significant forest species in the 3 major timber regions of the country. It will build on UNALM's long-term strategy and research to provide tools and outcomes to remove CITES-listed species from the CITES Appendices (mahogany and cedar). The pre-project is expected at the national level to ensure that the tools developed will be useful to users in their search for sustainable forest management and to authorities in their development of monitoring, verification and supervision protocols.

C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE – INAB

Period of Approval: September 2018

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

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

- (2) **PPD 196/19 Rev.1 (F) Support for Operational and Planning Capacity-building for Stakeholders in the Private and Community Forestry Sector in Togo (Togo)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	109,088
ITTO Budget:	US\$	85,792
Government of Togo:	US\$	23,296

Implementing Agency: PLATFORM OF PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY FOREST OWNERS (*PLATEFORME DE PROPRIÉTAIRES DE FORÊTS PRIVÉES ET COMMUNAUTAIRES—PFPC*)

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

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 9 months

The purpose of this pre-project is to provide technical support for the private and community stakeholders forming the Platform of Private and Community Forest Owners (Plateforme de Propriétaires de Forêts Privées et Communautaires—PFPC) of Togo. This support will involve technical and operational capacity-building to increase their proficiency in the use of regulatory and legal tools governing the forest sector; management planning; and identification of substantial, appropriate funding for intensifying forestry activities. The aim is also to empower these different stakeholders in Togo, allowing them to mobilize the necessary financial resources to meet the challenges of climate change and supply the local market with sufficient supplies of plantation-grown timber in the medium and long term.

This pre-project will help the private and community stakeholders to develop at least six forestry projects which will be submitted to the various funds/initiatives supporting the forestry and environmental sectors. The pre-project will also identify the needs of the major stakeholders in the private and community forestry sub-sector in terms of support and technical and operational capacity-building. Upon pre-project completion, the major members of the central coordination committees of the associations of private and community stakeholders, as well as the managers/owners of private and community forest estates will be capable of planning and submitting projects for funding/initiatives to support the forestry and environmental sectors.

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