



The implementation of the project experienced further substantial delay due to problems related to the recruitment of project staff and sub-contracts to consultants. Eventually, actual implementation began in April 2014 and a letter approving the full project team was sent by ITTO in August 2014. However, the project implementation continued suffering delays due to the changes of project team and consultancy firm. The Executing Agency submitted the request in September 2015 for subcontracting the consultancy firm which was approved subsequently. After that, project implementation proceeded as per the approved workplan with many of the project outputs and activities successfully already completed or well underway by mid-2016.

The unexpected situation with the ITTO funding impairment caused some negative impact to the project implementation during 2016-17. When the resumption of project funding was announced by ITTO in mid-2017, the Executing Agency submitted a revised workplan and budget which was approved by ITTO in June 2017. Based on the approved revised workplan and budget, the second and the third and final installment of funds were disbursed to the Executing Agency in July 2017 and December 2018 respectively. The Executing Agency had indicated in 2018 prior to the Fifty-second CEM Session when requesting the final installment of project funds that it would promptly prepare and submit the required completion and audited financial reports.

During the project implementation, the following project activities have been completed:

- Concluded a series of project meetings that enhanced levelling-off with the Sub-contractor on project descriptions, activities and expected outputs for the period. Also discussed assumptions, constraints, risks, what if scenarios, and critical success factors of the project.
- Translated the different Technical and Functional Specifications required of the project for Output 1 (Traceability Module), Output 2 (Verification of Legal Origin or VLO Module) and Output 3 (On-Line, Multi-tiered & Integrated Forest Monitoring System), into the NFSMS.
- Conducted meetings and discussions of the Traceability Module Configurations (Output 1); VLO module configuration (Output 2) and field module and FSMS environment configuration (Output 3) that constitute the NFSMS.
- Conducted meetings, discussions and demonstration in terms of workflows and screens of the NFSMS.
- Completed and finalized coordination work and other logistical arrangements with the concerned DENR Region Office and the tenure holder for the new project pilot site due to the suspended release of projects from the ITTO.
- Completed deployment and testing of into the DENR Server, the Traceability Module, VLO (Verified Legal Origin) Module, and FMS Data Entry Module of the NFSMS.
- Conducted User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the Traceability module, VLO (Verified Legal Origin) Module, and FMS data entry Module of the NFSMS.
- Conducted Pilot/Field testing of the NFSMS by module i.e. the Traceability module, VLO (Verified Legal Origin) Module, and FMS data entry Module.
- Conducted discussion on additional technical functionalities of the NFSMS to cover registered private tree plantations, and single-standing or cluster of planted tree in private lands.

The project has achieved its objectives and completed its outputs, namely:

- A Forest Stock Monitoring System (FSMS) module to support 100% "Back to Stump" traceability for wood production has been developed.
- Forest Stock Monitoring System (FSMS) module to support Verifications of Legal Origin (VLO) has been developed.
- Online, configurable, multi-tiered and integrated FSMS environment with field data entry module has been configured and improved.

The project completion report and the technical report were received by the Secretariat in October 2019, just prior to the Fifty-third CEM Session. The final audited financial statement was still outstanding at that time and the Committee recommended that the long-delayed project be terminated if the reporting requirements were not met before its Fifty-fourth Session. However, the Executing Agency eventually submitted the final audit report by the end of August 2020. As the completion report and the final audit report have been satisfactorily received by the Secretariat, the Committee may wish to declare the project duly complete.

The full project completion report and financial audit of project funds submitted by the Executing Agency are available on request from the Secretariat.