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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 eleven (11) approved projects are currently under implementation while none project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are thirteen (13) 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**

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

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 31 January 2022 (NOLF.20-0020)

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

- Several training courses were organized with partner organizations for the dissemination of SFM tools which have been developed by the project. These include a training course on monitoring of tropical forests (MFT) software for forest engineering students and teachers at the Federal University of Rural Amazon (UFRA) Capitão Poço Campus and Marabá Campus in November 2019; an online training course on BOManejo to help forest managers prepare sustainable forest management plans in March 2020; and an online training course on MFT for postgraduate students in forest sciences at the UFRA in March 2020.
- A new "Guide for Community Forest Management Monitoring" is being developed in cooperation with IFT in a participatory process involving community forest managers, taking into account local perspectives and needs on social issues under different forest management activities. New verifiers were tested at the end of 2019 in five communities dealing with logging activities. A draft Guide was produced in July 2020 and is in the process of being improved.
- Guidelines for Book-Keeping of Forest Operations were developed to assist the monitoring of forest operations in economic aspects. In July 2020, a training course on these guidelines was held.
- A partnership was established with IEB–International Institute for Education in Brazil which coordinates a project "FORMAR Gestão"(Management Training) financed by CLUA (Climate and Land Use Alliance). The IEB project's focuses include sustainable production systems where it will be important to apply the tools developed by the ITTO project. With this partnership, several activities are expected to promote community forestry entrepreneurial initiatives such as the Verde Para Sempre Reserve and Flona do Tapajós.
- Evaluation and validation of SFM tools developed in the project are being carried out.

Since the isolation process from the COVID-19 pandemic began in March 2020, many activities could not be carried out in the field. Postponed field activities include Activities 2.2 (Supervision of training activities by project staff), 2.3 (Evaluation of training courses by project staff and collaborating organizations for training and dissemination), 6.3 (Training of staff to carry out monitoring activities) and 6.5 (Periodic assessment of harvesting in collaboration with timber companies, including the application of ITTO criteria and indicators). To review the progress of project implementation and the work plan for 2021, a virtual meeting of the project steering committee is planned for early December 2020.

(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)
Fourth Project extension: until December 2019 (NOLF.19-0002)
Fifth Project extension: until April 2020 [CRF(LIII)/6]

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.

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 in June 2014, for an in-depth technical and financial assessment of the project implementation. The project implementation had been impacted by the Ebola virus epidemic in Liberia, from July 2014 to end of 2015, with the suspension of the implementation of project activities.

Five project extensions were granted until April 2020, without additional ITTO funds by the ITTO Secretariat, based on official requests including proper justification with appropriate detailed work plans and budgets. 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 dealing with the framework for a national reforestation and forest landscape restoration (FLR) strategy in Liberia.

Since the Fifty-third 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 draft technical report titled “Framework for national restoration and FLR strategy in Liberia 2020” was circulated for review by all relevant stakeholders in Liberia. The COVID-19 pandemic restriction measures on meetings and international travel did not allow to hold the validation workshop regarding this technical report, as planned in March 2020. The present national strategy could be an essential tool for ensuring timely and appropriate answer to many issues related to loss of forest cover and sustainable management of Liberian forest and wildlife resources, and on the other hand, a tool to improve livelihood and well-being of the Liberian population especially local and forest-dependent communities. As the main implementation approach promoted for this national strategy, FLR techniques could provide a framework for implementing restoration interventions that collectively could contribute to addressing major environmental challenges, such as land degradation, soil fertility loss, biodiversity loss, water scarcity, lack of sustainable rural livelihoods, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Restoration would be most likely to achieve the outcomes of the national strategy, if the process could incorporate clear objectives, good governance, advance preparation, and spatial planning; and
- The databank had been finalized and relevant information and data had been used as inputs for the preparation of the abovementioned technical report on national strategy for reforestation and forest landscape restoration in Liberia. This databank had provided an opportunity to seek out and/or find or develop practical solutions to the concrete problems (existing ones or arising throughout the implementation) included in this national strategy, based on updated information and data collected with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders dealing with forestry in Liberia.

Subsequent to the abovementioned progress, as well as taking into account the impact of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in Liberia, it was not possible to submit in due time the project completion report. The Forest Development Authority (FDA) of Liberia had been interacting with the team of experts led by Professor Jürgen Blaser, School of Agricultural, Forestry and Food Sciences (HAFL), Bern University of Applied Sciences, for the preparation of the project completion report. Thus, it could be reported and documented for the completion and closure process, during the 55th session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management, in 2021, if a good completion report and an acceptable final financial audit report could be submitted to the ITTO Secretariat.

(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)
Fifth extension until 30 October 2020 (NOLF.20-0021)

This project was approved in November 2009 and it was financed in November 2009. 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 30 October 2020 to fully achieve the objectives of the project.

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-third Session of the Committee in November 2019, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- For the establishment of forestry education services for PNG's primary and secondary schools, an education pack on forest and nature for school teachers was produced and favourably reviewed by the Curriculum Development Division (CDD) of NDoE. Approval of the education pack by NDoE's Board of Studies is expected in October 2020. Final verification of teaching materials in a 1-week internal workshop with the project team and NDoE staff is scheduled for November/December 2020.
- The 2 target communities of the project in Rigo District have made 110 hectares of grassland available for reforestation in selected road-side locations. An area of 10.6 hectares of teak was planted with the participation of farmers.
- The project has established a business information service for reforestation entrepreneurs based on the Tree Growers Tool Kit (TGTK) developed by the project. There are currently more than 250 multimedia resources for farmers and field workers. These resources are freely available on the online platforms managed by Pacific Island Projects (PIP).
- Two production systems were tested at suitable sites within the project area: In the first production system, the trial sites were ploughed and both annual crops and perennial crops, including vegetables, were intercropped with trees. In the second production system, vegetables were planted and harvested before teak trees were planted. Teak seedlings were found to grow best in soil ploughed by a local tractor during the rainy season.
- The Forest Research Institute (FRI) in Lae has established a clonal seed orchard comprising 208 clonal ramets at Rocky Creek site at Kuriva. This work was assisted by Project FST-2014-069: Improvement and Management of Teak & Sandalwood funded by the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The project team also prepared 6 factsheets for high-value trees that grow well in the Central Province lowlands which include information about site selection, seed collection and nursery establishment.

A virtual meeting of the Project Technical Committee was held on 22 September 2020 and it noted the delay in the implementation of several project activities, including the submission of financial audit reports, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting made recommendations for the urgent submission of the delayed financial audit report and the successful completion of remaining tasks. The remaining tasks to be undertaken include: upgrading the Kuriva Forestry Station nursery to meet both current supplies and future demands for planting stocks; delivering a SYB Micro Enterprise training program for local entrepreneurs from the project's third target community in Barakau village in Kairuku-Hiri District; and facilitating the formation/renewal of 2 ILGs in the target communities in Rigo District.

(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		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 31 December 2020 (NOLF.20-0028)		

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-third Session of the Committee in December 2019, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- 18 hectares of Cempaka species demonstration plots for long-term research and training of local communities has been established in three districts. Monitoring and nurturing of Cempaka seedlings were conducted at three demonstration plots.
- Intensive dialogues on long-term benefits of Cempaka plantation with 20 villages in 3 districts have been conducted. Appropriate incentives for local communities to plant Cempaka trees have been collaboratively identified and introduced. An extension program on Cempaka resource conservation collaboratively has been developed.
- Survey on growing stock and distribution of Cempaka species has been conducted. A study on economics of Cempaka wood utilization for woloan-house production has been conducted. Sustainable level of AAC for Cempaka species has been determined. Standard operational procedures (SOP) have been developed and equipment and facilities for monitoring of forest operations and timber legality has been procured. The project tested the SOP, equipment and facilities.

Since the Fourth Meeting of the Project Steering Committee held on 11 September 2019 the implementation of the project has been greatly accelerated. Activities of YPO3 (October 2019-September 2020) were almost completed as scheduled toward the full completion of the project.

(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:	First Extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18 -0084) Second Extension until 31 December 2020 (NOLF.20-0017)		

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 December 2020.

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

- Several training workshops were organized to help local communities adopt and implement the identified livelihood options. These include aquaculture training courses in Narocake village and three other villages; the construction of a community pigsty for Nasilai village; and beekeeping in Muanaira village. Arrangements are being made for the organization of a training on how to start up business for six communities with support of the National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprise Development as well as training for women on sewing machine in six communities
- Public education media programs are underway to facilitate public awareness of the conservation and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems. Efforts are underway to develop short documentary videos, technical reports, review paper and awareness materials.
- Guidelines for Mangrove Management have been developed and will be published for dissemination to key stakeholders. At the national level, the project is contributing to sustainable policy programs

and activities that can be scaled up to other river systems and communities living in coastal wetland and mangrove area in Fiji and the Pacific Region.

With the COVID 19 outbreak in April in 2020 in Fiji, all six ITTO project sites were on lockdown and visitors were not allowed to enter these communities. The lockdown was lifted in June and the Executing Agency is in the process of slowly but surely recovering the implementation of project activities, including the collection of traditional knowledge and skills for harvesting and preservation of key food/timber sources from coastal mangrove forests.

(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 not been an exception to the trend of accelerated deforestation and forest degradation in the tropics, which has led to increased risks, including negative impacts like natural disasters. These problems have been aggravated by climate change and poverty, which are widespread throughout the region, increasing the country's vulnerability to natural disasters. However, there are still extensive forest areas in the country, many of which are traditionally managed by indigenous communities (Guatemala currently has the highest density of indigenous groups in relation to total population in Meso-America). These problems and challenges are exemplified in the Department of Quiché which has 7% of the national forest cover but where 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 (and thereby serve as a climate change adaptation measure), INAB and local NGO CALMECAC have worked together to develop and implement this project to promote 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.

The 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 from the project 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 approach 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 third progress report submitted in January 2020 showing progress to late 2019 (available from the Secretariat in Spanish), shows satisfactory progress in activities under all of the above outputs; the final instalment of project funds was released following receipt of this report. The second project steering committee and project monitoring mission took place in December 2019 when all project activities were observed to be on track in accordance with the project workplan. A final PSC and monitoring visit scheduled for the second half of 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; it may be rescheduled for early 2021 if travel is possible and an acceptable final report is not submitted by then. The annual audit for 2019 was received and approved by the Secretariat in 2020; however an up to date progress report had not been received by the Secretariat at the time of preparing this report; the Executing Agency had requested the final installment of project funds in late September and would soon submit the required progress report to allow disbursement of the funds. It also informed that most field activities had been completed and that the final report and financial audit would be submitted by mid-2021 due to unavoidable delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Secretariat will inform the Committee if an updated progress report is submitted by the time of the Session; otherwise the representative of Guatemala may be requested to provide a briefing on project progress during 2020.

(7) 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

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 30 April 2020 (NOLF.20 -0001)

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

- Regular monitoring of four demonstration sites in the targeted communities are being carried out through field checks and meetings with farmers and community forestry committees with discussions on the progress of the implementation of community activities and anticipated challenges.
- Supported the field checks of the current land uses in Veal Okdey Community Forestry, which is in the process of signing a community forestry agreement between Veal Okdey CF and Kampong Thom Forestry Administration Cantonment and facilitated meetings with the government of Kampong Thom for the promotion of Veal Okdey Community Forestry.
- Produced an article for ITTO's Newsletter - Tropical Forest Updated (TFU). The recent TFU's edition (Volume 29 No. 2 2020) included an article entitled "Rising to the challenge of REDD+" that shares the project's positive impacts on stakeholders, from local communities to provincial and national authorities, building community capacity and understanding of the legal framework, as well as a sense of ownership of the forest resource.
- The project team has refined the project technical reports and facilitated the preparation of the financial audit report for 2019. Technical reports prepared by the project 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 values and adjustment of Forest Reference Emission Levels in Kampong Thom province

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the completion of the project has been postponed. The Executing Agency is expected to fully complete all project activities and publish quality technical reports by the end of 2020. The project is expected to be reported as completed at the next Session of the Committee.

(8) 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, 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 late 2019 were included in a detailed progress report submitted to the Secretariat (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).

The photographic contest "Knowing the Dry Forests of the North Coast of Peru", took place in October.

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.

The third Regional Congress of Dry Forest - III COREFOR took place in December in Chiclayo.

The project has managed to meet most of its goals and has contributed to capacities of 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.

The third project steering committee meeting took place in September 2019 when all project activities were seen to be on track. A fourth steering committee meeting scheduled for late 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; it may be rescheduled for early 2021 if travel is possible and an acceptable final report is not submitted by then. The annual audit for 2019 as well as an up to date progress report had not been received by the Secretariat at the time of preparing this report; however the Executing Agency had written in September 2020 to inform that most field activities had been completed and that videos illustrating project achievements along with the final report and financial audit would be submitted by early 2021 due to unavoidable delays associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Committee may therefore request the representative of Peru to brief it further on project progress during 2020.

(9) 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:	March 2020 / 36 months		

The third revised project document 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. After such arrangements, the project commenced in March 2020.

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.

Since the commencement of the project in March 2020, the Implementing Agency has concentrated on the following:

- Identification of project partners and establishment of MoUs: Five project partners have been identified to promote community-based forest activities and MoUs with them have been finalized. The five project partners are: Research and Conservation (RCF), Eastern Highlands Province; Organisation for Industrial, Spiritual, Cultural Advancement (OISCA), East New Britain Province; Foundation for People and Community Development (FPCD), Madang Province; Milne Bay Provincial Administration (MBPA) and PNG Forest Authority (PNGFA), Milne Bay Province; and Forest Management and Product Certification Service (FORCERT), West New Britain Province.
- For community forest monitoring and management, data collection is ongoing in relation to land tenure/boundaries, clan membership, forest biomass, land cover and land use, and biodiversity. These data will be posted on an online platform once the collection is complete.
- A virtual meeting of the Project Technical Committee was held on 9th September 2020. Recommendations from this meeting include: selecting a qualified auditing firm from the extended

list of more than three applicants and receiving guide on best auditing practices from the selected auditing firm; organizing meetings with project partners to finalize their workplans and budgets; facilitating the improvement of the community-based forest management plans for the target communities; and including the Conservation, Environment and Protection Authority (CEPA) as a member of the project partner group.

Due to the COVID 19, the PNG Government imposed a state of emergency from 23rd March 2020 to 14th June 2020, and many field activities have been postponed. The Executing Agency has reviewed the work plan to further promote sustainable livelihood activities in the target local communities.

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

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

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 31 December 2020 (NOLF.20-0034)

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.

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.

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 2020 based on a progress report submitted to the Secretariat in August 2020 covering the period to the end of July (available on request, Spanish only). Work is nearly complete on restoration activities in the 4 pilot sites in collaboration with local stakeholders. A national adaptation of ITTO's guidelines for the restoration of natural tropical forests has been completed and underwent review in a series of regional workshops. The project has experienced some delays in field activities, which may result in a request for a further no-cost extension and delay of submission of the final report/financial audit to mid-2021.

The annual financial audit for 2019 was submitted to ITTO by the executing agency on time and was approved by the Secretariat. A second project monitoring visit by the Secretariat took place in December 2019 during which all project activities were observed and progress found to be satisfactory. A third monitoring visit scheduled for late 2020 had to be postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic; it may be rescheduled for early 2021 if travel is possible by then.

(11) 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 Fifty-third Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- An area of 4 hectares was planted to restore degraded forests with the involvement of farmers in Ciukir Block, Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park, Situ Gunung, Sukabumi
- Training on forest patrol operations took place over 3 days from July 22-24, 2020. It was attended by 43 field officers and 17 community forestry partners and provided skills on the use of the SMART System which is a patrol data management tool. The training course's resource persons were supported by the Regional Conservation Directorate, Pakuan University and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).
- Six farmer groups (FG) have been selected for livelihood improvement activities. These groups (Kelompok Tani Hutan/KTH) are:
 - KTH of Wangun Jaya, Bogor, West Java Province
 - KTH of LBC Lestari, Bogor, West Java Province
 - KTH of Tunas Bangsa, Sukabumi, West Java Province
 - KTH of Lestari Alam Sejahtera, Sukabumi, West Java Province
 - Koperasi of Sugih Makmur, Cianjur, West Java Province, and
 - KTH of Hejo Cipruk, Cianjur, West Java Province.
- Sustainable livelihood training courses were organized in May and June 2020 with the participation of 148 farmers or other stakeholders, which was less than the targeted number (200) due to the physical distancing policy against the COVID-19 pandemic. Livelihood demonstration activities were identified through intensive dialogues involving six farmer groups (FG), local officials and the national park staff. These activities include:
 - Sheep raising for FGs at Wangun Jaya, Ambar Jaya, Nagrak and Ciputri villages
 - Forest honey production for LBC Lestari FG at Cileungsi village, and
 - Homestay business for Hejo Cipruk FG at Gekbrong village.
- With the support of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Program, a video was produced to present the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve. It finds that the pandemic has caused a cut in tourism, affecting livelihoods, but is also accelerating ecological recovery. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Z48qq8piFM&feature=youtu.be>

During March to July 2020, amid of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Executing Agency has focused on livelihood improvement activities to help local communities regain income generation opportunities from the pandemic, although some activities have been postponed.

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 in accordance with on the ITTO rules and procedures. The project was partially funded with an amount of US\$100,000 (Republic of Korea) during the ITTC-54 in November 2018 and an additional US\$150,000 (Republic of Korea) during the ITTC-55 in December 2019. The Implementing Agency is in the process of revising the approved project document based on the available project funds.

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 approved in Autumn 2013
Rev.2 approved in Spring 2015

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

The project was approved in Autumn 2013, but was reviewed in two Phases focusing on capacity building of Myanmar's national institutes, in particular the Forest Research Institute on biodiversity research in Phase I, while promoting cross-border cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand in Phase II. The revised project was approved under the 2015 Spring Project Cycle and Phase I - Phase 1 began in March 2018 and completed its implementation in March 2020. Phase I Phase 2 is currently awaiting funding for implementation.

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, Kittl'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 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 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

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.

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 54th and 55th CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and also if it is not revised and resubmitted to the Committee by the proponent, for review and decision prior to the end of the validity period.

(5) 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

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 national goals associated to 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 local populations. 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.

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 54th and 55th CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and also if it is not revised and resubmitted to the Committee by the proponent, for review and decision prior to the end of the validity period.

(6) 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 by the Republic of Korea during the ITTC 54 in November 2018. During the ITTO-55 in December 2019, the Republic of Korea pledged an additional fund in the amount of US\$ 167,557 and USA also pledged an amount of US\$50,000. The Implementing Agency is in the process of revising the approved project document based on the available project funds.

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.

(7) 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 begin the implementation of this project is not secured before January 2021, this project will be sunset in that time (26 months after the initial 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.

(8) 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

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 project 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.

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 54th and 55th CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and also if it is not revised and resubmitted to the Committee by the proponent, for review and decision prior to the end of the validity period.

(9) 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

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.

(10) 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

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 Ferkessedougou) 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 gazetted forests. 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.

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 54th and 55th CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and also if it is not revised and resubmitted to the Committee by the proponent, for review and decision prior to the end of the validity period.

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

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 54th and 55th CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and also if it is

not revised and resubmitted to the Committee by the proponent, for review and decision prior to the end of the validity period.

(12) 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

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.

(13) 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

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.

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 54th and 55th CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and also if it is not revised and resubmitted to the Committee by the proponent, for review and decision prior to the end of the validity period.

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)

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.

The ITTO Secretariat has reiterated the request for the submission of an acceptable project final financial audit report (FFAR) which could allow it to be subject to the completion and closure process. If the FFAR is not submitted in due time, the 54th Committee Session may consider recommending 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

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.

The ITTO Secretariat has reiterated the request for the submission of an acceptable project final financial audit report (FFAR) which could allow it to be subject to the completion and closure process. If the FFAR is not submitted in due time, the 54th Committee Session may consider recommending the termination of this project, in conformity with the ITTO's rules and procedures applying to projects.

PRE-ROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

There are two (2) approved pre-projects currently under implementation and one (1) pre-project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There is no approved pre-project 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 USA:	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: May 2019 / 10 months (16 months of implementation)

I. Introduction

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 duly signed by all 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.

The pre-project execution was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic restriction measures (on travel and meetings) implemented in by the Government of Togo during the first semester of 2020. Thus, as an acceptable version of the pre-project completion report was received in September 2020, the pre-project operation period had lasted 16 months instead of 10 initially designed by the implementing agency (AMEN). The pre-project final financial audit report was not submitted in due time by the Executing Agency, in order to allow this pre-project to be documented for the completion and closure procedures.

II. Project Objective

The development objective of this pre-project was to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the Mono plain in Togo. The specific objective was to support local authorities to design a full project proposal for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the Mono plain in Togo.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

This pre-project intended 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 forest formations in the Mono Plain, Togo. For the development of a future project, the implementation of this pre-project was 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 were considered as major constraints for any direct formulation of a full project proposal.

The pre-project achievements and outputs, which contributed to the formulation of a full project proposal, can be summarized as follows:

Expected Outputs	Main Achievements and Results
<p><u>Output 1:</u> Data from forest, socio-economic, legal and environmental surveys on the project are available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitization campaigns had been carried out by the pre-project implementing agency, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, in order to raise the awareness of local communities living in the area to be covered by the future project. It was an opportunity to exchange ideas on the objective of that future project to be developed through the implementation of this pre-project; • Data from forestry, socio-economic, legal and environmental studies had been made available through the submission of four technical reports prepared by consultants/sub-contractors for the preparation of a full project proposal to be submitted in due time in the ITTO Regular Project Cycle. These four technical studies had covered selected villages/townships located in the following prefectures of Togo: Agou (Avétonou), Amou (Amou-oblo), Anié (Pallakoko), Blitta (Welly and Assoukoko), Est-Mono (Morétan), Haho (Wahala), Kpélé (Kpélé-Toutou), Moyen Mono (Tado), Ogou (Gléi and Akparè), Sotouboua (Aouda and Kazaboua), and Tchamba (Koussountou and Bago).
<p><u>Output 2:</u> 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A local structure for the coordination of the actions of the main stakeholders, in each of those villages/townships located in the abovementioned prefectures, included the landowners and local traditional Chiefs that have a hold over forest lands to be used for the implementation of the future project in the Mono Plain. • A draft-zero of the full project proposal was developed, with the inputs provided by technical reports, in order to be formally submitted for the next ITTO Regular Project Cycle when the announcement will be posted on the ITTO website. The tentative title of the future project is as follows: "<i>Promotion and Sustainable Management of Community Forests in the Mono Plain, Togo</i>". This title may change by the deadline for the formal submission in the Project Regular Cycle by the ITTO Focal Point in Togo.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The main pre-project outcomes and impacts, in and around the implementation areas of the future project, in relation to the expected outputs and associated activities, can be summarized as follows:

- Contribution to increasing awareness of relevant stakeholders on the need to get their involvement in order to ensure a smooth collaboration among them for the implementation of the future project with local communities in the Mono Plain, Togo; and

- Sensitization on the potential of the activities of the future project for improving the livelihood and food security with the aim of reducing poverty for local communities to be involved in the implementation of the future project in the Mono Plain, Togo.

The holding of a workshop to report the findings of four technical reports to relevant stakeholders was delayed because of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in Togo, with its related travel and meeting restriction measures. The aim of the workshop was to discuss on the appropriate strategy for the future project proposal.

V. Lessons Learnt and Sustainability

One of the main lessons learned during the implementation of this pre-project is in relation to the reluctance of landowners of the forest areas to be covered by the future project with the involvement of local communities. For the smooth implementation of the future project, it could be important to start with an appropriate stakeholder consultation process contributing to ensure the participation and involvement of landowners of forest lands, as well as local traditional Chieftain of communities in the Plain Mono. The sustainability of the future project will rely on the capacity of stakeholders to address this issue of reluctance of most landowners to share their lands for forestry operations/actions involving local communities.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received only the Completion Report and Technical Reports, but not the Final Financial Audit Report, the Pre-project PPD 191/18 Rev.1 (F) may be considered as technically completed but pending Financial Audit Report. This pre-project will be subject to the completion and closure process after the submission of an acceptable Final Financial Audit Report, in accordance with appropriate ITTO rules and procedures.

(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**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	109,088
ITTO Budget:		US\$	85,792
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
Unearmarked funds:	US\$	35,792	
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

This 9-month pre-project was approved in September 2019 through the electronic approval system and it was fully funded during the 55th ITTC Session in December 2019, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of USA and the supplementary funds from the ITTO unearmarked funds. The Pre-project Agreement had been signed by the parties in June and July 2020. The Executing Agency is currently preparing the inception report and associated detailed work plan for the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO required for the commencement of the pre-project implementation.

The pre-project development objective is to help to develop a sustainable and profitable forest sector through the effective involvement of private and community stakeholders for the purposes of achieving the objectives of extending forest cover in Togo to 30% by 2050. The specific objective of this pre-project is to

implement a participatory process for developing six forestry project proposals aimed at enhancing the contribution of private and community stakeholders to the development of the forestry sector in Togo. These six project proposals will be developed in conformity with the procedures, frameworks and requirements of ITTO and other potential international funding partners and initiatives.

The implementation agency (PFPC) has been preparing the documents required for the disbursement of the first installment of ITO funds in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Agreement governing the implementation of this pre-project implementation. The first disbursement will be made by the ITTO Secretariat upon receipt of acceptable required documents.

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
Government of USA:	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: Rev.2: approved in Fall 2018
Rev.3: approved in Fall 2019

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 8 months

The approved pre-project was revised based on the available ITTO fund and this revised project was approved in September 2018 through an electronic no-objection procedure. 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 another electronic no-objection procedure. The draft pre-project agreement has been sent to the NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE AND WILDLIFE – SERFOR. The CNF (National Forest Chamber) will initiate pre-project activities in collaboration with UNALM once 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

None.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES WORK IN PROGRESS

There are four (4) special activities currently under implementation.

- (1) **PP-A/53-323** **Capacity building for the implementation of “*Legal and Sustainable Supply Chains (LSSC)*” by stakeholders in the Congo Basin countries**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	315,789
ITTO Budget:		US\$	315,789
Government of Japan (JFA):	US\$	315,789	
RIFFEAC:			in kind

Implementing Agency: RIFFEAC - Network of Central African Forestry and Environmental Training Institutions

Starting Date and Duration: March 2020 / 12 months

This 12-month Special Activity is funded as part of the First Programme Line (PL1) titled “*Legal and Sustainable Supply Chain (LSSC)*” under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with some appropriate provisions of Decision 8(LV). This Special Activity was funded during the 55th ITTC Session in December 2019, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan (Forestry Agency). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this Special Activity was duly signed by all parties in March 2020. The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC) initiated the Special Activity implementation after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds on 27 March 2020. The implementation of this Special Activity is based on the results of the BMEL-ITTO Activity 5 funded by Germany and executed by RIFFEAC.

Based on information from the implementing agency (RIFFEAC), the progress in the implementation of this Special Activity can be mainly summarized as follows:

- Surveys on the characteristic of key stakeholders (forestry private sector companies, relevant governmental institutions/entities, relevant civil society representatives, etc.) and wood products supply chains structure in Central African ITTO member countries has been carried out through RIFFEAC forestry training institutions with their relevant staff having expertise in the following training programmes:
 - Program 1: Understanding the "Deforestation-Free" concept
 - Program 2: Assessing legality and establishing accountability
 - Program 3: From legality to sustainability
 - Program 4: Markets and their access
- Compilation of the results of these four training programs being developed through the implementation of the BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, in a module facilitating the transfer of knowledge and expertise to the stakeholders associated with the LSSC, has been delayed because of the lockdown (travel and meeting restriction measures) implemented in Congo Basin countries in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As Congo Basin countries have been gradually releasing the lockdown measures in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation agency (RIFFEAC) has been making arrangements for resuming the implementation of delayed activities of the BMEL-ITTO Activity 5 in order to get appropriate results to be used as technical inputs for the execution of this Special Activity.

(2) PP-A/56-340-1 Capacity Building on Forest and Land Fire Management in Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,131,663.16
ITTO Budget:		US\$	1,105,263.16
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	1,105,263.16	
Government of Indonesia:		US\$	26,400.00

Implementing Agency: Directorate of Forest and Land Fire Management (DFLFM), Directorate General of Climate change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined (November 2020) / 12 months

In Indonesia, uncontrolled and unmanaged burning practices have become a serious problem because these activities have in the past caused and continue to cause catastrophic fires that disrupt human health, transportation, environment, and other daily activities. These problems should be addressed with integrated measures and approaches. Since human activities have become a main factor in forest and land fire in Indonesia, effective involvement of local community is fundamental and capacity building programmes for the forest and land fire brigades is critical for the prevention and reduction of forest and land fires in the field.

The objective of this project is to reduce the occurrence of forest and land fires in targeted areas by strengthening capacity building in forest and land fire management and zero burning practices and by increasing prevention activities with technology improvements and development of practical guidelines. The project has three outputs: (1) Best agricultural practices applied; (2) Strengthened management capacity to address forest and land fires problems and (3) Forest and land fire prevention actions increased and cooperation strengthened among local institutions, the private sector and communities for forest fire prevention.

The expected outcomes after the project completion are : Fire Care Community (Masyarakat Peduli Api) groups become the agents of change in forest and land fire prevention through best agriculture practices/ sustainable agricultural and silvicultural management in their neighborhoods and implementing zero burning practices; performance of the Forest and Land Fire Brigade (Manggala Agni) and government officials on forest and land management will be improved and they respond effectively to forest and land fires; and participation of all stakeholders in forest and land fire prevention will increase with improved coordination and communications related forest and land fire issues.

In order to achieve these outcomes, the project will conduct a series of training for Forest and Land Fire Brigades (Manggala Agni), Fire Care Community (MPA) and government officials. Integrated prevention patrols will also take place in the fire prone villages. The project will be implemented in coordination with stakeholders and representatives of Regional Climate Change and Forest and Land Fire Agency in Kalimantan and Sumatera.

Project agreement was signed between ITTO and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia in August 2020.

(3) PP-A/56-340-2 Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,324,088.16
ITTO Budget:		US\$	1,105,263.16
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	1,105,263.16	
SERFOR:		US\$	218,825.00

Implementing Agency: The National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR) of
Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Peru

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined (November 2020) / 12 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 Ucayali, 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, eventually leading to the loss of forest cover and natural wild flora and fauna habitats; damages to the physical integrity, health or property of individuals; greenhouse gas emissions; and loss of economic value of forest lands and wildlife resources.

The objective of this project is to contribute to the conservation of forest ecosystems and other types of wild vegetation under threat of forest fires. Its specific objective is to reduce forest fires by strengthening the capacities of national and local authorities in taking urgent actions for forest fire prevention and response. Positive effects of the project include the reduced loss of forest cover, ecosystems and natural habitats of wild flora and fauna; greater capacity of the national and local authorities and local communities in prevention and response to forest fires; reduced emissions of greenhouse gases; and increased awareness about forest fires so as to accelerate the implementation of national and regional forest fire action plans.

Expected outputs of the project 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 knowledge management and outreach for forest fire prevention and response. In order to achieve these outputs, the project will raise awareness among agricultural producers regarding best forest and agricultural waste management practices and strengthen social organizations while ensuring effective coordination between public and private institutions. In addition, the project will support relevant institutions with early-warning and information systems and will disseminate forest-related regulations. The sustainability of the project will be extended under part of the forest fire programmes of SERFOR.

Project agreement was signed between ITTO and SERFOR in August 2020.

(4) PP-A/56-341 Support for Women's Groups with the Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, Togo

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	110,590
ITTO Budget:		US\$	93,240
Soka Gakkai International (SGI):	US\$	93,240	
REFACOF:		US\$	17,350

Implementing Agency: African Women's Network for Community Management of
Forests (REFACOF, in French acronym)

Starting Date and Duration: October 2020 / 12 months

This 12-month Special Activity is funded as part of the Third Programme Line (PL3) titled "Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with some appropriate provisions of Decision 8(LV) calling upon the ITTO Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking new funding avenues and partners for the funding of ITTO's work. This Special Activity was fully funded by Soka Gakkai International (SGI), in March 2020, after a successful consultation process between ITTO and SGI, based on the concept note and profile-document prepared by the implementing agency (REFACOF) in compliance with the framework and requirements of the financial donor (SGI). The Memorandum of understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this Special Activity has been duly signed process by all parties (Government of Togo, REFACOF-Togo, Implementing Agency and ITTO Secretariat) in October 2020.

The Special Activity aims at supporting women's groups in two of Togo's poorest Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, where forest restoration and enrichment planting will take place on identified plots made available by the chieftaincy of two villages (Agouegan village of Lacs Prefecture and Pagala-gare village of Blitta Prefecture). It intends to contribute to food security, meeting their needs in fuel energy and to generate income from wood and non-wood forests products, including food crops derived from agroforestry activities, while empowering women groups involved in the implementation of this Special Activity. The Executing Agency (REFACOF) has to start the Special Activity implementation with the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds made in October 2020.

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