



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL  
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON  
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Distr.  
GENERAL

CRF(LV)/3  
8 October 2021

Original: ENGLISH

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FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION  
29 November – 3 December 2021  
Virtual Session

**REPORT ON**

**PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

**IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**



## PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

### **PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

A total of eight (8) approved projects are currently under implementation while one project is awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are fourteen (14) approved projects still awaiting full financing. Four (4) 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:	First Extension until 31 January 2022 (NOLF.20-0020) Second Extension until 31 January 2023 (NOLF.21-0074)		

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 project duration has been extended until the end of January 2023 due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic since April 2020.

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-fourth Session of the Committee, the project has been making progress mainly in desk work and outreach activities since it was not possible to carry out field activities, following the social isolation of the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Continuous efforts have been made to advance in the revision of permanent plots for monitoring forest dynamics in SFM Plans, with special emphasis on forest concessions (federal and state levels). This revision is nearing completion and expected to be released soon.
- Institutional collaboration with IBAMA has been continued with the validation of the SFM Plans operation monitoring computer tool. Meetings have been held from March to May 2021 (every two weeks). This validation process facilitates the exchange of information and the review of monitoring indicators into the computer software MOP. This version has been tested by the partners involved in the second half of 2021.
- Information sharing and collaboration have been enhanced, considering the limitations imposed by the Covid -19, through the use of Google Meet, a platform and articulation with several universities and professional associations and institutions. These include the Forestry Science Master Course of Federal University of Acre (UFAC), the Environmental Institute of Acre State (IMAC) of the Secretary of the Environment of the State of Acre, and the Brazilian Forestry Service (SFB).
- The project team has organized several webinars and participated in relevant events, including participation in a webinar on current challenges and future perspectives for community forest management In Pará Amazonia. A campaign on "Forest Management in the Amazon" has been carried out on Facebook and Instagram. On Instagram, two posts (a video and a card carousel) reached 38,209 people, with 5,898 interactions, including views, likes and comments. On corporate Facebook, there were six posts in the period, reaching 164,049 people.
- The project team has contributed to the establishment of Amazonia Forestry Forum and its launch on June 16, 2021 which aims to promote dialogue and participation of the forestry sector to promote governance and build inclusive collective solutions for sustainable development and well living in the Amazon. This new Forum has been benefitted from "Positive Agenda for Sustainable Forest Management" which was formulated with assistance of the project.

The PSC meeting took place virtually on June 9, 2021 with the participation of relevant stakeholders from the Embassy of Japan in Brazil, ABC/MRE, SFB, and IFT. After reviewing the progress of the project, including its impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the PSC meeting recognized several postponed field activities of training, monitoring and assessment. One of the recommendations of the PSC meeting includes the review of the project extension to fully complete all project activities with publication of technical reports.

**(2) 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) Third Extension until 31 December 2021 (NOLF.21-0066)		

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 2021.

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

- Completed a five-day community business training course in October 2020 for six project sites (Waicoka, Naivakacau, Nasilai, Natila, Narocake and Muanaira village) with the support of the National Centre for Small and Micro Enterprises Development, the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport. Thirty participants (five representatives from each village) were able to learn how to start and operate a community-based business that will be sustainable.
- Guidelines for Mangrove Management have been published for dissemination to key stakeholders. At the national level, these guidelines are a reference in sustainable policy programs and activities that can be extended to other river systems and communities living in coastal wetland and mangrove areas in Fiji.
- Video production is nearing completion. Its aim is to show the visual impact of the restored mangrove and the alternative livelihoods initiatives established by the project in the six communities of the Rewa Delta. Outreach efforts are underway to develop awareness materials. The project was part of the

Agriculture Show for public awareness in October 2020 and the two-day Youth Summit on Climate Change in March 2021.

- The Executing Agency has reviewed the sustainability of the project in terms of technical aspects for the extended use of the Guidelines for Mangrove Management and mangrove planting techniques, as well as social aspects for the effective operation of women's groups in the local demonstration communities.

Regarding the financial audit report for FY 2020, the Executing Agency has delayed its submission due to the recommended follow-up actions for the audit report for FY 2019, as well as a lengthy process of selecting an independent auditor for FY 2020 and the availability of a selected independent auditor for the project. Ernst & Young (Suva, Fiji) was engaged in September 2021 and is expected to submit the audit report by mid-October 2021.

Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has been extended until the end of December 2021 to fully complete all project activities and publish quality technical reports. The project is expected to be reported as completed at the next Session of the Committee.

**(3) 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 / 48 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 31 March 2021 (NOLF.21-0046)		

This project has completed all activities and has submitted a satisfactory final audit report accounting for ITTO funds. However, submission of the final report (expected to be submitted by mid-2021 in accordance with the project agreement and agreed extension) has been delayed beyond the time of finalization of Committee documents due to several members of the project team being directly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. If a satisfactory completion report is received prior to ITTC 57, the Secretariat will propose that this project be considered under the Committee's "Completed Projects" agenda item. Otherwise, the representative of Guatemala will be requested to provide an explanation of the delay in submitting the required documentation.

Since no new progress report has been submitted, the following information (indented) is repeated from the update provided to the CRF in 2020.

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 most recent progress report (submitted in late 2020 and available from the Secretariat in Spanish), shows satisfactory progress in activities under all of the above outputs with all complete or nearly so; 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 similarly proved impossible to reschedule during 2021. The annual audit for 2019 was received and approved by the Secretariat in 2020. and the final installment of project funds was disbursed in late 2020.

**(4) 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:	First Extension until 30 April 2020 (NOLF.20 -0001) Second Extension until 30 April 2021 (NOLF.20-0051) Third Extension until 31 December 2021 (NOLF.21-0039)	

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 March 2015. 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. The project received the first extension until the end of April 2020. Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country since April 2020, the project has been further extended until the end of 2021. .

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

- Regularly monitored four demonstration sites at the targeted communities through field checks, and meetings with farmers and community forestry committees which facilitated discussions with farmers on the progress and challenges of the project's livelihood activities.
- Conducted training on agro-forestry for farmers with the installation of an irrigation system in Kbal Kla community forestry.
- Published four technical reports and project leaflets in English and Khmer versions. Produced the final draft of three policy briefs highlighting the key findings of the following four technical reports:
  - 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
- Organized virtually the final meeting of the Project Steering Committee on 28 April 2021 and reviewed the draft three policy briefs and the implementation of delayed activities for the successful completion of the project.

The Executing Agency is finalizing the remaining project activities and policy briefs, as well as a project completion report. The project is expected to be reported as completed at the next Session of the Committee.

**(5) 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 / 40 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 31 December 2020 (NOLF.20-0034) Second Extension until 30 June 2021 (NOLF.20-0047)

This project completed all activities in mid-2021. However, submission of the final report and final audit (expected to be submitted by September 2021 in accordance with the project agreement and agreed extension) has been delayed beyond the time of finalization of Committee documents due to several members of the project team being directly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. If a satisfactory completion (and audit) report is received prior to ITTC 57, the Secretariat will propose that this project be considered under the Committee's "Completed Projects" agenda item. Otherwise, the representative of Guatemala will be requested to provide an explanation of the delay in submitting the required documentation.

Since no new progress report has been submitted, the following information (indented) is repeated from the update provided to the CRF in 2020.

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 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 similarly proved impossible to reschedule during 2021.

**(6) 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		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 28 February 2022 (NOLF.21-0061)		

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. Due to the delay in the implementation of some project activities resulting from the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has been extended until the end of February 2022.

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-fourth Session of the Committee, the project, amid the COVID19 pandemic, has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- A sound monitoring system of biodiversity and ecosystems has been strengthened with the finalization of the standard operation procedures and purchase of monitoring equipment and tools for Javan Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Javan Hawk Eagle (*Nisaetus bartelsi*), Javan Gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*), Herpeto Fauna.
- A total of 12 dialogues were organized to increase the awareness on conservation and sustainable development through community development, capacity building for local community, branding facilitation on CBR product to get branding certificate from the CBR Forum. with support of the National Committee of MAB Indonesia. This activity has been implemented in 3 districts of Cianjur, Sukabumi and Bogor, in collaboration with local organizations, academy institutions and the private sector.
- To support an effective institutional framework for CBR management, the establishment of a Coordination and Communication Forum on CBR is near to completion. Consultations have been made with local governments of Cianjur, Sukabumi and Bogor, as well as Provincial government to enhance the follow up of the CBR management.
- The CBR website has been updated with project/activity news and other information/materials. The website ([www.itto-cbr.id](http://www.itto-cbr.id)) has been synchronized with the GGNP website. Social media for the project include Facebook (FB) at <https://www.facebook.com/itto.c.reserve> and Instagram (IG) at [https://www.instagram.com/cibodas\\_biosphere.reserve/](https://www.instagram.com/cibodas_biosphere.reserve/).
- The project team participated in a number of national and international virtual events including UNESCO High Level Political Forum (HLPF) "Coping with Environmental Challenges: Climate and Biodiversity Action in UNESCO's Sites".

The project is expected to complete all project activities by the end of February 2022, by focusing on livelihood improvements to help local communities regain income generation opportunities as well as strengthening on institutional cooperation framework for sustainable management of CBR.

**(7) PD 836/17 Rev.2 (F) Enhancing Capacity of Local Communities and Forest Administration to Effectively Implement Community Forestry Programme (CFP) in Kratie and Mondulkiri Provinces of Cambodia (Cambodia)**

**Budget and Funding Sources:**

Total Budget:		US\$	480,758
ITTO Budget:		US\$	417,558
Government of Republic of Korea	US\$	267,557	
Government of USA:	US\$	100,000	
Government of Japan:	US\$	50,000	
Government of Cambodia		US\$	63,200
Implementing Agency:	Forest Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia		
Period of Approval:	Rev.1 approved in August 2017 Rev.2 approved in February 2021		
Starting Date and Duration:	October 2021 / 36 months		

This project was approved in the 2017 Project Cycle. It was partially funded in the amount of US\$100,000 by the Republic of Korea during the ITTC 54 in November 2018. The project received additional funds from the Republic of Korea (US\$ 167,557) and USA (US\$50,000) in the ITTC 55 in December 2019, as well as USA (US\$50,000) and Japan (US\$50,000) during the ITTC 56 in November 2020. The Implementing Agency revised the approved project document based on the available project funds and it was approved in February 2021. Following the completion of the project agreement for regulating project implementation in June 2021 and all administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, including the appointment of project personnel, the Implementing Agency began project activities in October 2021.

The project aims to promote the sustainable development of community forestry program (CFP) with increased livelihoods of local communities in support of the effective implementation 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 the Forest Administration to effectively implement CFP in the Kratie and Mondulkiri 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) improvement of the capacity of local communities and forest administration in forest management planning, ii) promotion of the capacity of local communities to operationalize approved forest management plans, and iii) improvement of the capacity of Forest Administration in monitoring and reporting of forest operations by individual Community Forestry Management Units (CFMUs).

**(8) PD 852/17 Rev.4 (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\$	386,123
ITTO Budget:		US\$	125,000
Government of USA:	US\$	125,000	
FDA:		US\$	153,693
BENEFICIARIES:		US\$	107,430
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 (as Rev.3 and ITTO budget of US\$149,968) Rev.4 endorsed in November 2020 (with US\$125,000)		
Starting Date and Duration:	June 2021 / 24 months		

The Council approved the project at its Fifty-fifth Session in Lomé, Togo, in December 2019. Financing was not allocated at that time, but it was partially funded, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of the USA, at the Fifty-sixth Council Session, in November 2020. The partial funding of the project had led to the modification of the ITTO budget associated to the adjustment of the project activities and it was endorsed in November 2020. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project, with funds secured at the Fifty-sixth Council Session, was signed by all parties in May 2021 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in June 2021.

The project development objective is 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 specifically intends to 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 project implementation will contribute to achieve the following expected outputs: 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.

Since the commencement of the project execution and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The work plan that was prepared preliminarily has been readjusted, as it is natural that after three years in which the project proposal was prepared, until its financing and putting into operation, there are several factors that have changed, evolved, appeared, or disappeared.
- The area for ground activities has been demarcated in the areas of Atiquipa and Pucchún and the same will be done in the areas of La Joya and Moquegua (report in progress).
- Fifteen (15) hectares of plots already installed are being evaluated and work has begun for the installation of 20 hectares in experimental blocks of 5 ha each and the installation of approximately 12 hectares in the recovery zone of degraded hills is being planned.
- Two forest nurseries are being installed: one in the Jawey area to support individual beneficiaries and another on the land of the municipality of Pucchún.

- The protocols and monitoring formats that will be applied once the experimental units have been developed by a multidisciplinary team of experts working under the supervision of the project leader.
- On the one hand, it can be mentioned that there have been several changes of authorities and key officials in the public administration, particularly SERFOR in this case, which has led to a delay of several months for signing of the ITTO-SERFOR-FDA agreement governing the project implementation.

Despite the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mobilization in the field has been made in coordination with the local agents of SERFOR (national forest and wildlife service), and the follow-up was done virtually by the implementing agency (FDA). This hybrid approach for the implementation and supervision of this project will continue until the COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted by the Government of Peru.

## B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

### (1) PD 712/13 Rev.3 (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 – Phase I

#### Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	492,014
ITTO Budget:		US\$	250,000
Government of Republic of Korea	US\$	250,000	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	11,424
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners		US\$	230,590

Implementing Agency: Forest Research and Development Centre, Forestry and Environment Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approved in Spring 2014  
Rev.2 approved in April 2016  
Rev.3 approved in September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase I - 24 months

The project was approved in the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and its validity was extended based on a request from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in accordance with 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 revised the approved project document into Phase I and Phase II, taking into account the project funds available for immediate implementation. Phase I was approved in September 2021 through the online no-objection procedures for 2021. The draft project agreement regulating the implementation of Phase I has been prepared and will be consulted with the Implementing Agency. The project is expected to start in January 2022 after the completion of all administrative arrangements, including the appointment of a project coordinator.

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 Environment and Forestry,

provincial government of Riau, Sinarmas Forestry and Partners as well as local communities and local research and development institutions.

### C. PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

**(1) PD 712/13 Rev.3 (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 – Phase II**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	380,246
ITTO Budget:	US\$	248,154
Government of Indonesia :	US\$	6,272
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners	US\$	125,820

Implementing Agency: Forest Research and Development Centre, Forestry and Environment Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approved in Spring 2014  
Rev.2 approved in April 2016  
Rev.3 approved in October 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase II - 12 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and it was revised in two Phases, taking into account the funds available for immediate implementation. Phase I focuses on the enhanced planning framework and institutional capacity of Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR), while Phase II aims at promoting partnerships between key stakeholders on the operational management of GSK-BR. Phase I is expected to start its activities in early 2022 with a two-year time plan, while Phase II awaits funding.

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.

**(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, and was revised 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. Phase I Stage 1 began in March 2018 and completed its implementation in March 2020. Phase I Stage 2 is currently awaiting funding for its 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, Kitt'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 / Phase II - 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 51<sup>st</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.4 (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\$	828,718
ITTO Budget:	US\$	566,488
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	262,230
Implementing Agency:	FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES FORÊTS—SODEFOR)	
Period of Approval:	Rev.3: Approved in September 2019 Rev.4: Approved in September 2021	
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 was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

**(5) PD 818/16 Rev.4 (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\$	827,058
ITTO Budget:	US\$	311,864
CIMA – Cordillera Azul:	US\$	364,954
Other sources:	US\$	150,240
Implementing Agency:	CENTRO DE CONSERVACIÓN, INVESTIGACIÓN Y MANEJO DE ÁREAS NATURALES – CORDILLERA AZUL (CIMA CORDILLERA AZUL)	
Period of Approval:	Rev.3: Approved in September 2019 Rev.4: Approved in September 2021	
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 was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

**(6) 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:	First approval: September 2018 Second approval: November 2020	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months	

The project was partially financed with an amount of US\$100,000 (USA) during the ITTC 54 in November 2018 and its validity was extended in November 2020 for additional 20 months. Currently, the project awaits financing for its implementation. If a certain level of financing (e.g., at least an additional fund of US\$100,000) is secured, the project can initiate its activities.

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 m<sup>3</sup>/hectare/year productivity, and develops high value-added timber products to improve forest producers' income.

**(7) PD 890/18 Rev.3 (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\$	746,081
ITTO Budget:	US\$	575,833
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	170,248

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

Period of Approval: Rev.2: Approved in September 2019  
Rev.3: Approved in September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

Consequently, the community's high demand for fuelwood has resulted in indiscriminate harvesting of this product in 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 was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

**(8) PD 896/19 Rev.2 (F) Protection and Restoration of Forested Water Catchment, Regulation and Recharge Areas in the Upper Salinas River Watershed, Guatemala, to Ensure Water Supply for Guatemalan Communities**

**Budget and Funding Sources:**

Total Budget:	US\$	314,450
ITTO Budget:	US\$	150,000
WFP:	US\$	126,875
INAB:	US\$	37,575

Implementing Agency: WATER FOR PEOPLE (WFP) in collaboration with NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)

Period of Approval: October 2020

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

Guatemala has an estimated (2010) forest cover of 3,722,595 hectares, the equivalent of 34% of the national land area. However, because of intense agricultural encroachment, illegal logging and other factors, the deforestation rate was 29,222.4 hectares per year for 2006-2010 (1.0% per year of existing forests in 2006). The loss of forest cover affects the amount of water available to supply Guatemala's population, resulting in water shortages, and causing an impact on living standards. This situation has become particularly critical since Guatemala has been identified as one of the most vulnerable countries to extreme weather events and other consequences of climate change.

The development objective of this project is to help maintain and recover forest cover in watershed areas of Guatemala. Its specific objective is to ensure the conservation and restoration of areas of very high water recharge rate through compensation mechanisms for environmental services, thus contributing to the availability of water in quantity and quality for the population of five municipalities in the Department of Quiché, Guatemala.

Expected outcomes at project completion include: i) Areas of high and very high water recharge rates in the upper Salinas River watershed are conserved and restored; ii) Improved availability of water quantity and quality for human consumption in 100 communities situated in the upper Salinas River watershed; iii) At least 2 compensation mechanisms have been established for water environmental services in the upper Salinas River watershed.

Project work will be jointly implemented in coordination with local municipal councils, communities and other stakeholders in the project's target area. In addition, municipal and community empowerment will be promoted through the planning and implementation of participatory municipal plans for the protection of water sources in order to guarantee the continuity of these actions after project completion.

This Project will lose its status as an Approved Project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> CRF Sessions, if it is not funded during this period and 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 901/19 Rev.2 (F) Promoting Conservation and Community-Based Management of Mangrove Ecosystems Through Integrating Adaptation and Mitigation Action in Karang Gading and Langkat Timur Laut (KG-LTLWR) Reserve, North Sumatera, Indonesia**

**Budget and Funding Sources:**

Total Budget:	US\$	556,963.80
ITTO Budget:	US\$	499,228.80
Government of Indonesia:	US\$	57,735.00 (in kind)

Implementing Agency: BBKSDA SUMATERA UTARA, MINSITRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY (MOEF)

Period of Approval: October 2020

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in October 2020 and it awaits financing for its implementation.

Karang Gading and Langkat Timur Laut Wildlife Reserve (KG-LTLWR) in North Sumatera Province of Indonesia, with a total area of approximately 9,520 ha hectares, is one of the most important reserves of Indonesia due mainly to its rich and unique biodiversity and all area covered by mangrove forest. Although mangroves are of great importance from the biological, ecological, economic and cultural point of view, conservation and development functions of mangroves have been problem due to various management problems. The project aims "to contribute to restoring the conservation and development functions of mangrove ecosystem in North Sumatera". Its specific objective is "to implement community-based mangrove management and conservation in KG-LTLWR" through delivery of three outputs, namely: i) Village model of collaborative management of mangrove ecosystems developed; ii) Awareness of local stakeholders on conservation and sustainable mangrove development increased; and iii) Improved local community adaptive capacity on mangrove conservation in addressing climate change impacts.

**(10) PD 902/19 Rev.2 (F) Management of Upper Baram Forest Area for Conservation and Sustainable Development with Involvement of Local Communities, Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia**

**Budget and Funding Sources:**

Total Budget:	US\$	2,016,453
ITTO Budget:	US\$	814,128
Government of Malaysia:	US\$	1,202,325

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK

Period of Approval: October 2020

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The project was approved in October 2020. The Bruno Manser Funds and the City of Basel, Switzerland pledged an amount of US\$ 200,000 each (total US\$ 400,000). The project is currently awaiting additional funds

for its implementation. If the project secures at least another US\$200,000 or more, the Implementing Agency will be able to start the project with revised budget.

In 2010, 18 Penan communities of the Upper Baram established an area of forest as the Penan Peace Park (PPP) to overcome land tenure issues and improve livelihoods. The PPP covers an area of some 283,500 ha comprising primary forest, logged-over forest, secondary forest, settlements and farming lands. It is located in the Upper Baram in Sarawak's Heart of Borneo and between the Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Area of Pulong Tau National Park (Sarawak) and Kayan Mentarang N.P. (East Kalimantan). Four ethnic communities live inside the PPP, the Penan in 18 villages, Kenyah in six villages, one Kelabit village at Long Peluan, and one Saban village at Long Banga where some Kelabit also live. The forest in the PPP has been licensed for timber production to five timber companies since the early 1980s. Logging was met with intense protest especially from the Penan communities, who put up blockades to prevent loggers from entering, and prevented a core area of 79,000 ha of primary forest from being logged. Their actions caught the attention of international communities and NGOs.

The project's development objective is to "manage the Upper Baram Forest Area for biodiversity conservation and socio-economic development for the benefits of local communities", and the specific objective is to "enhance rural transformation through conservation and sustainable development with good governance". Integrated management plan will be delivered through three outputs to achieve the following, namely, (i) forest resource base sufficiently secured and threats significantly reduced, (ii) integrated land management and utilization by zoning carried out, (iii) multi-stakeholder institutional arrangement for the UBFA development established, and (iv) sustainable economic development models introduced and demonstrated in line with government's rural transformation programme.

**(11) PD 903/19 Rev.2 (F) Management of Sungai Menyang Conservation Area for Orangutan Protection and Uplifting Community Livelihood, Sarawak, Malaysia**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,096,115
ITTO Budget:	US\$	509,040
Government of Malaysia:	US\$	587,075

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK

Period of Approval: October 2020

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

The project was approved in October 2020 and is currently awaiting financing for its implementation. The Sungai Menyang Conservation Area (SMCA) in south-western Sarawak covers about 14,000 ha and is occupied by a re-settled Iban community following construction of the Batang Ai Hydro Dam 33 years ago in 1985, with a population of about 500 living permanently in six longhouses. Adjacent to the SMCA is the Batang Ai National Park (24,000 ha) where over 300 orangutans are found. During the past two decades, the animal has come out of the national park to raid on fruit crops, causing much loss to Iban farmers. A recent survey indicated presence of 87 individuals inside SMCA.

The project's development objective is to enhance biodiversity conservation and rural economic transformation, and the specific objective is to improve community livelihood through sustainable use of forests and biological resources. These objectives will be achieved through three outputs. Output 1 will study to secure forest resource base for integrated management, Output 2 will initiate a process for effective ecosystem management and resource utilization, and Output 3 will encourage community participation in eco-tourism with improved facilities and training. Expected deliverables will be (a) forest resource base with well-defined and harmonized functions identified and secured, (b) orangutan raids on farm crops under control, (c) new activities for uplifting community livelihood initiated, (d) studies on carbon stocks in different forest types carried out and carbon trading schemes developed, (e) nature and culture eco-tourism facilities improved, and (f) stakeholders institutional arrangement for SMCA management established.

**(12) PD 904/19 Rev.2 (F) Restoring Productivity in Post-Logging Hill Forests by Enrichment Planting in Sarawak, Malaysia**

## Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,768,641
ITTO Budget:	US\$	795,626
Government of Malaysia:	US\$	973,015
Implementing Agency:	FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK	
Period of Approval:	October 2020	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months	

The project was approved in October 2020 and is pending funding for its implementation. The project is in line with current policy of the Sarawak government to impose mandatory forest management certification for forest management units (FMU) in the permanent forest estate, and to improve the productivity of logged-over commercial forests in the certified FMUs by enrichment planting, particularly in degraded areas. In addition to enrichment planting trial, experiments are also intended to study the impacts of logging intensities on recovery of residual forests in different sites. Post-logging forests will be able to recover naturally and faster if harvesting operations and production quota are controlled, as silvicultural intervention would be very costly. On the other hand, some type of silvicultural contribution are essential in heavily logged and degraded areas.

The project's development objective is to improve productivity and restore ecosystem resilience of post-logging hill forests, and the specific objective is to carry out enrichment planting trials using native tree species. The three expected outputs are designed i) to conduct field surveys to identify trial planting sites and select timber species for planting, ii) to develop facilities and materials for enrichment planting, research and development, and iii) to study recovery of residual forests and biodiversity by natural regeneration. Enrichment planting process will involve adding new species without removing species already present, while ensuring no further damage to existing forest landscapes and biodiversity.

**(13) PD 905/19 Rev.2 (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\$	626,760.78
ITTO Budget:	US\$	482,623.68
Government of Togo	US\$	144,137.10
Implementing Agency:	AGENCY FOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND USE ( <i>OFFICE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'EXPLOITATION DES FORÊTS—ODEF</i> )	
Period of Approval:	Rev.1: Approved in September 2019 Rev.2: Approved in September 2021	
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 was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

**(14) PD 916/21 Rev.1 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Natural Forests in the Collective Afro-descendant Community Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia**

**Budget and Funding Sources:**

Total Budget:	US\$	741,347
ITTO Budget:	US\$	578,185
Government of Colombia –	US\$	107,362
University of Tolima:		
Community Council of the Bajo	US\$	55,800
Calima Black Ethnic Group:		
Implementing Agency:	UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA - COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE BAJO CALIMA BLACK ETHNIC GROUP	
Collaborating Agency:	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	
Period of Approval:	September 2021	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months	

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

To address this problem, this project has the development objective of contributing to the implementation of management, conservation, and restoration programs for the strategic ecosystems of the Colombian Pacific region based on enrichment planting and agroforestry systems established under a sustainable management approach. The project specifically intends to launch a participatory process helping to raise the living standards of the communities with a gender focus to achieve sustainable management of secondary natural forests and collective lands in Bajo Calima, Republic of Colombia. The project expected outputs are as follows: (1) Line enrichment planting and agroforestry systems for secondary natural forests have been established and managed as pilot areas; (2) Trained teachers, community leaders, and farmers apply their knowledge in community organization, administrative tasks, use, management and conservation of natural resources; and (3) Research-action program developed and implemented with the participation of undergraduate and graduate students of the University and with particular emphasis on ecosystem services related to climate change.

**D. PROJECTS TO BE SUBJECT TO POSSIBLE TERMINATION PROCESS****(1) 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 44<sup>th</sup> 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 implementation was initiated 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 52<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Council and subsequent requirements], as it was 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 55<sup>th</sup> 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.

The letter No.L.21-0087 of 15 June 2021 was sent to the project implementing agency (FDA-Liberia), as the final notice regarding the urgent need to submit the completion report and final financial audit report, in due time, for the completion and closure process by the ITTO Secretariat. As the project implementing agency did not submit the completion report and final financial audit report, this project can be recommended for termination to the International Tropical Timber Council - ITTC (as provided for in Article X of the Project Agreement) during its 57<sup>th</sup> Session.

**(2) 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 but the final installment has not been delivered due to non-provision of financial audit reports for the financial years ending 2018, 2019 and 2020.

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.

During this reporting period since the Fifty-fourth Session of the Committee, there were no project activities due to unavailability of project funds, but administration activities continued to resolve the issues surrounding the non-submission of financial audit reports for financial years 2018, 2019 and 2020 to ITTO.

In anticipation of resolving the audit issues of PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) and PD 764/14 Rev.3 (F), ITTO auditor Ernst & Young - Japan conducted a series of online auditing meetings. The first/kick off meeting was held on May 17, followed by another meeting on June 15, and the third online audit meeting was held on June 23, 2021. The online audit by Ernst & Young – Japan was incomplete because the PNG Forest Authority did not provide the required documents along with the requested receipts and invoices.

As a result, on June 15, 2021, ITTO sent a letter notifying that due to the non-compliance of contractual obligations by the executing agency, the projects PD 552/09 Rev.1(F) and PD 764/14 Rev.3(F) will be recommended for termination to the International Tropical Timber Council - ITTC (as provided for in Article X of the Project Agreement) during its 57th Session to be held in November 2021. Once the Council approves the recommendation for termination, the PNG Forest Authority will be ineligible to receive additional support from ITTO unless all outstanding commitments have been cleared.

For the submission of pending audit reports for FY 2018, 2019 and 2020, the PNG Forest Authority selected an external auditor, Raja & Associates (R&A) in August 2021. The PNG Forest Authority provided relevant financial statements to the auditor and responded to inquiries raised by the auditor. The PNG Forestry Authority is expected to submit the pending audit reports by mid-October 2021.

**(3) 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 48<sup>th</sup> 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 implementation was initiated 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 50<sup>th</sup> Committee session (in November 2016). Although the implementing agency (PICODEV-Ghana) was urged by the 51<sup>st</sup> 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 52<sup>nd</sup> 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 53<sup>rd</sup> Committee Session, the Committee could consider recommending 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 54<sup>th</sup> Committee Session may consider recommending the termination of this project, in conformity with the ITTO's rules and procedures applying to projects.

The letter No.L.21-0108 of 30 June 2021 was sent to the implementing agency (PICODEV-Ghana), as the final notice regarding the urgent need to submit the completion report and final financial audit report, in due time, for the completion and closure process by the ITTO Secretariat. As the project implementing agency did not submit the completion report and final financial audit report, this project can be recommended for termination to the International Tropical Timber Council - ITTC (as provided for in Article X of the Project Agreement) during its 57<sup>th</sup> Session.

**(4) 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 Fifty-fourth Session of the Committee, the project, amid the COVID 19 pandemic, has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Developing a participatory data collection hardware and software is underway for forest resource assessment and clan land boundary mapping through working sessions with local CFM partners and pilot landowner groups. Five high priority forms have been designed and built using KoBoToolbox software (for collecting, analysing and managing CFM data) with reference to the feedback and materials received to-date from the project's local partners and key stakeholders.
- Five project partners have been identified to promote community-based forest activities. 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.
- Feedback received from the project's local partners in East New Britain (ENB) province indicates that the project should assist community groups to collaborate with the Department of Lands & Physical Planning's (DLPP) draft National Sustainable Land Use Policy which focuses on participatory land-use planning on customary land rather than the National Land Development Program which focuses on formally securing customary land for SFM schemes.

The PNG Forest Authority has not submitted the financial audit report for FY 2020 to ITTO. In anticipation of resolving the audit issue for the projects PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) and PD 764/14 Rev.3 (F), ITTO auditor Ernst & Young - Japan conducted a series of online auditing meetings. The first/kick off meeting was held on May 17, followed by another meeting on June 15, and the third online audit meeting was held on June 23, 2021. The online audit by Ernst & Young – Japan was incomplete because the PNG Forest Authority did not provide the required documents along with the requested receipts and invoices.

As a result, on June 15, 2021, ITTO sent a letter to the PNG Forest Authority notifying that due to the non-compliance of contractual obligations by the executing agency, the projects PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) and PD 764/14 Rev.3 (F) will be recommended for termination to the International Tropical Timber Council - ITTC (as provided for in Article X of the Project Agreement) during its 57th Session to be held in November 2021. Once the Council approves the recommendation for termination, the PNG Forest Authority will be ineligible to receive additional support from ITTO unless all outstanding commitments have been cleared.

For the delayed audit report for FY 2020, a decision was made to select a different external audit firm as the current arrangement with Raja & Associates (R&A) for PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) in the PNG Forest Authority is not working well in producing the audit report as per the annual reporting period. This led to the engagement

of Samkiaktubangliu Certified Practicing Accountant (SKT) in PNG. The PNG Forest Authority submitted the financial audit report for FY 2020 prepared by SKT to ITTO on September 19, 2021 with a management letter specifying the unauthorized use of project funds which includes an expenditure of US\$ 8,330 to cover the organization of a workshop with the Department of Education under PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F). As it goes against the provisions of Article IV (Use of funds) and Article V (Accounts, Records and Reports) of the project agreement, ITTO urged reimbursement for the unauthorized use of funds. The PNG Forest Authority responded that the reimbursement will be arranged and promised to resubmit a revised audit report confirming the reimbursement.

## **PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS**

There are two (2) approved pre-projects currently under implementation and three (3) approved pre-project 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 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:	September 2017 (as Rev.1 and ITTO budget of US\$87,490) Rev.2 endorsed in September 2018 (with US\$50,000) Rev.3 endorsed in September 2019 (with US\$50,000 and change of the pre-project Implementing Agency)	
Starting Date and Duration:	May 2021 / 6 months	

The Council approved the pre-project at its Fifty-third Session in Lima, Peru, in December 2017, but it was partially funded, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of the USA. The partial funding of the pre-project had led to the modification of the ITTO budget associated to the adjustment of the pre-project activities and it was endorsed in September 2018. However, there was another need to revise the pre-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 Agreement regulating the implementation of the pre-project, with funds secured at the Fifty-third Council Session, was signed by all parties in December 2020 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in May 2021.

The development objective to which the future project, that will be developed through the pre-project implementation, will be to enhance the knowledge on the reproductive behaviour of commercial timber species to design technical tools that will facilitate the development of the reproductive strategy and the establishment of species through natural regeneration and the application of silvicultural techniques as required to ensure their population restoration. Specifically, the pre-project intends to develop a project proposal aiming to ensure the restoration of commercial species harvested in forest concessions and native community forests.

Since the commencement of the pre-project execution and in accordance with the pre-project's most recent progress report, the progress in its implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The study on selected species was carried out in the Tahuamanu province, Madre de Dios region, in Peru, and the findings have been summarized in a technical report providing useful information and data on the following species: *Cedrela fissilis*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Dipteryx micrantha*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, and *Myroxylon balsamum*.
- The study on species was carried out in the Tahuamanu province, Madre de Dios region, in Peru, and the findings have been summarized in a technical report providing useful information and data on the following species: *Cedrela fissilis*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Dipteryx micrantha*, *Swietenia macrophylla*, and *Myroxylon balsamum*.
- The development of the database of seedlings, with their characteristics, location within the area and the corresponding maps, as well as which concession or community they depend on, has been delayed because of the travel and meetings restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru.

With the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Peru, in 2021, some activities with a strong field interaction had been delayed because of the travel and meeting restrictions imposed by the Government of Peru. Virtual coordination has been carried out with the regional offices, the concessionaires, the native communities, the National Amazonian University of Madre de Dios (UNAMAD), the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM), the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI), the Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA), the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP), Madre de Dios headquarters, Forest and Wildlife Resources Supervisory Agency (OSINFOR); among the main ones. As these restrictions are gradually lifted due to the gradual improvement of the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts will be made by the implementing agency to speed-up the implementation of delayed activities, for the collection of relevant data and information to be used for the preliminary formulation of a full project proposal

**(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 ( <i>PLATEFORME DE PROPRIÉTAIRES DE FORÊTS PRIVÉES ET COMMUNAUTAIRES</i> —PFPC)		
Collaborating Agency:	AGENCY FOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND USE ( <i>OFFICE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'EXPLOITATION DES FORÊTS</i> —ODEF)		
Period of Approval:	September 2019		
Starting Date and Duration:	March 2021 / 9 months		

This 9-month pre-project was approved in September 2019 through the electronic approval system and it was fully funded during the 55<sup>th</sup> 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 all parties in July 2020, and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in March 2021.

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.

Since the commencement of the pre-project execution and in accordance with the pre-project's most recent progress report, the progress in its implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- After the recruitment of consultants, the consultation process was undertaken in order to effectively coordinate the planned activities of the pre-project. From this consultation process emerged a comprehensive work plan for the intervention of consultants in the implementation of pre-project activities, with the purpose to harmonize the interventions of consultants in the field during the COVID-19 pandemic in Togo.
- Main stakeholders have been involved in a preliminary consultation process for the purpose of sharing information on the pre-project and selecting the relevant ideas to be converted into full projects through the implementation of this pre-project.
- The development of training modules was delayed by the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Togo, and subsequently the training workshops have been postponed until the finalization of training modules by consultants.

The abovementioned delay in the implementation of pre-project activities will lead to the adjustment of the comprehensive work plan for the intervention of consultants in the implementation of pre-project activities in order to make up for this delay during the remaining period of execution. With the gradual improvement of the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, efforts will be made by the implementing agency to speed-up the implementation of delayed activities, for the collection of relevant data and information to be used for the preliminary formulation of six full project proposals.

## B. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

None.

## C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

- (1) **PPD 197/20 Rev.1 (F) Development of a Project for the Revaluation, Restoration and Sustainable Development of the Quina (*Cinchona spp.*) Tree and Associate Native Species of the Western Montane Forests of Peru**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	95,432
ITTO Budget:	US\$	71,456
Government of Peru:	US\$	23,976
Implementing Agency:	SOS PAN PERU - Development Non-Governmental Organization	
Period of Approval:	October 2020	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 6 months	

The "Quina" or "cascarilla" tree belongs to the *Cinchona* genus, *Rubiaceae* family; it is the tree that represents Peru's plant richness, and as such it appears on the national coat of arms. It is an important part of the country's history and is catalogued as one of montane forests' major contributors to the global pharmacopeia. Its medicinal qualities, derived from chemical compounds including alkaloids, flavonoids and terpenes in its bark, leaves, fruit (pods) and flowers, have supplied the most effective medicine against malaria and other infectious viral and bacterial disorders for over 400 years. Still today, it provides inputs for global health research such as its potential to fight the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Not only does it offer benefits from its direct use, but it is also part of the montane forests in Andean-Amazon ecosystems that provide ecosystem goods and services, such as vital water resources for human consumption, agriculture and industrial activity in rural and urban settlements in lower micro-watershed areas.

To date, historic overexploitation for the global pharmacopeia, as well as deforestation and degradation in rural areas, have had a negative impact on Quina tree natural stands. As a result, there is a need to develop a participatory strategy to revert this situation, because of its historical, cultural, medicinal, and timber significance, as well as its importance as a component of fragile ecosystems that ensure the subsistence of rural and urban communities, beneficiaries of the conservation of montane forests.

Furthermore, the specific objective of the pre-project is to develop a project proposal for the revaluation, restoration and sustainable development of the Quina (*Cinchona* spp) tree and associated native species of the western montane forests of Peru. It intends to identify, collect, process and analyse information on the *Cinchona* genus and associated species found in tropical montane forests, as well as their socioeconomic environment, with a view to developing a full project proposal.

This Pre-project will lose its status as an Approved Pre-project [refer to Decision 2(X)] and fall under the sunset provision between the 57<sup>th</sup> and 58<sup>th</sup> 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.

**(2) PPD 198/21 Rev.1 (F) Study for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Gallery Forests in the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve in Benin**

**Budget and Funding Sources:**

Total Budget:	US\$	114,704
ITTO Budget:	US\$	91,504
Benin (DGEFC):	US\$	23,200
Implementing Agency:	GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING ( <i>DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC</i> )	
Collaborating Agency:	NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE RESERVES ( <i>CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF</i> )	
Period of Approval:	September 2021	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 10 months	

The Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve (MDBR) is an integral part of the RAMSAR 1017 site in Benin. As such the MDBR is a wetland of international importance which is part of the Mono River basin at the border between Benin and Togo. The MDBR is a community reserve encompassing six community-based biodiversity conservation areas, namely: the Bouche du Roy area, Toho Lake area, Naglanou forest area, Adjamé Lake area, Togbagji Lake area and Dévé swamp forest area.

Gallery forests (GF) with wildlife and flora species listed in the IUCN Red List are found in this ecological area. The area is now highly degraded as a result of anthropogenic pressures (human settlements, uncontrolled land clearing for agriculture, overharvesting of fish and resources, etc.) and natural pressures (climate change, silting of rivers and water bodies). It is therefore urgent to establish a management and protection system for gallery forests. To address this issue, this pre-project was developed in order to collect information required to conduct an assessment of the state of forest galleries with a view to developing a full project proposal for the restoration and sustainable management of gallery forests. The main expected outputs are: (i) baseline information on the MDBR gallery is available, and (ii) a support project for the sustainable management of the area is developed and submitted to ITTO.

**(3) PPD 201/21 Rev.1 (F) Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	106,184
ITTO Budget:	US\$	81,984
Benin (CPDRN):	US\$	24,200

Implementing Agency: CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (*CENTRE DE PROMOTION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT LOCAL ET DE GESTION DURABLE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES*—CPDRN)

Collaborating Agency: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING (*DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE*—DGEFC)

Period of Approval: September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

Over the last three decades, Benin has lost nearly 85 per cent of its dense forests and more than 30 per cent of its total forest cover. Reforestation is an alternative to reverse the trend for deforestation in Benin and ensure sustainable production of timber forest products. Thus, through the forestry policy developed and adopted in 1994, the Government of Benin has initiated the development of private forestry, with the aim of ensuring participation of the private sector in the progressive restoration of forest cover. The strategy also aims to increase the production of timber forest products while improving their quality.

However, owners of private forests are often left to their own devices, and their forests are not managed sustainably. This pre-project will identify the capacity-building needs of private (individual and community) tree farmers, with a view to preparing a capacity-building project for these growers and ensure the sustainable management of their forest plantations. The main expected outcomes of this pre-project are: (i) baseline information on private and community plantations is available; (ii) a capacity-building project for private and community tree farmers in southern Benin is developed and submitted to the ITTO.

**BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME (BWP)-BASED ACTIVITIES**

There are four (4) BWP-Based 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

Approved Revised Dates of Project Completion: Implementation extension: until March 2022 (NOLF.21-0018)



This 12-month BWP 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 BWP Activity was funded during the 55<sup>th</sup> ITTC Session in December 2019, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan (Japan Forestry Agency). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this BWP Activity was duly signed by all parties in March 2020. The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC) initiated the BWP Activity implementation after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds on 27 March 2020. The implementation of this BWP Activity is based on the findings and results of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5 funded by Germany and executed by RIFFEAC. The delay in the implementation of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, due to the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Congo Basin countries, led to the extension of the implementation period until March 2022 and correlated modification of the ITTO budget.

Overall, this BWP Activity will contribute to the promotion and implementation of good practices for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin countries by gradually building the human resource capacity in important areas of sustainable forest management, including facilitating compliance with the requirements for the implementation of legal and sustainable supply chains in forest products. Specifically, it will involve establishing proven expertise among the stakeholders associated with legal and sustainable supply chains (LSSC). The single document of compilation of the results of four LSSC-related training programs, developed through the implementation of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, will be the tool for information sharing and facilitating the transfer of knowledge and expertise to the main stakeholders associated with the LSSC issues in Congo Basin countries.

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

- As Congo Basin countries had gradually released the lockdown measures in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation agency (RIFFEAC) has been able to resume the implementation of delayed activities of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5 in order to get appropriate findings and results to be used as technical inputs for the execution of this BWP Activity.
- After the validation of four LSSC-related training modules, produced with the support of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, by representatives of main LSSC-related stakeholders in the Congo Basin countries, through technical validation workshops, the main findings and results have been made available for the smooth implementation of this BWP Activity.
- As recommended by the first virtual monitoring meeting, a consultant, duly recruited in May 2021, is currently working on the compilation into a single document the findings and results of the following four LSSC-related training modules:
  - Module 1: Understanding the “Deforestation-Free” concept
  - Module 2: Assessing legality and establishing accountability
  - Module 3: From legality to sustainability
  - Module 4: Markets and their access

The draft of the single document of compilation of the results of four LSSC-related training programs, developed through the implementation of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, will be subject to review by experts to be gathered in a regional workshop for its technical validation and it will also be subject to dissemination in ITTO member countries in Congo Basin through training workshops, during the fourth quarterly of 2021 and first quarterly of 2022.

## **(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: January 2021 / 12 months

This project is funded as an activity of the Second Programme Line (PL2) titled "Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" and Fourth Programme Line (PL4) titled "Emerging Issues and Innovation" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with Decision 8(LV). The Japan Government has funded this project through its emergency assistance for the effective management of forest fires in the tropics. The project agreement was signed between ITTO and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Indonesia in August 2020 and the project started in January 2021.

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 specific objective is to improve prevention of forest and land fire through strengthening management and technical capacity of stakeholders at three targeted provinces of South Sumatera, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan, and national level.

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.

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

- A kick-off meeting was organized on 15 February 2021 and the 1st PSC meeting held virtually on 21 April 2021 to support the efficient and effective implementation of the project.
- Carried out coordination meetings and field visits to the target provinces, namely South Sumatera, and South Kalimantan in March 2021.
- Engaged expert teams to develop a module of zero-burning practice (Activity 1.2) and a procedure of fire management (Activity 2.4) to promote best agriculture practices/sustainable agricultural and silvicultural management to their neighbourhoods and implement zero burning practices.
- Collaborated with the IPB university in Bogor to develop a SMART Patrol Information system (Activity 2.3) and to organize a monthly webinar (Activity 3.3). So far, three monthly webinars have been organized to share lessons from the implementation of forest fire policies and programs in Southeast Asia, with an emphasis to Indonesia. Each of the three webinars was attended by more than 150 participants from and outside the region.
- Training of fire management for fire brigade/ Manggala Agni (Activity 2.1) has been delivered in Central Kalimantan, South Kalimantan and South Sumatera. In addition, in terms of supporting Manggala Agni in implementing fire management, the project has also procured safety equipment (Activity 2.5) that includes firefighter coats, safety shoes, and portable fire water pumps to improve performance of Forest and Land Fire Brigade (Manggala Agni) and government officials on forest and land fire management, and effective response to forest and land fires
- Outreach efforts have been promoted by disseminating project work through mass media, online media (including an official website), and also social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

**(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: January 2021 / 12 months

This project is funded as an activity of the Second Programme Line (PL2) titled "Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" and Fourth Programme Line (PL4) titled "Emerging Issues and Innovation" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with Decision 8(LV). The project agreement was signed between ITTO and SERFOR in August 2020. This project was fully funded thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs / MOFA), and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in January 2021.

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, Junín 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. In addition, the project will support relevant institutions with early-warning and information systems and will disseminate forest-related regulations.

Since the commencement of the project execution and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- It was necessary to use virtual coordination meetings to remain in permanent contact with the teams of the 5 regions (Cajamarca, Huánuco, Pasco, Junín and Ucayali) because of the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the situation of the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru.
- The process for the selection of consultants and the purchasing of capital goods needed for the project implementation has been slow because of requirement, for SERFOR, to comply with the provisions of the national contracting legislation in force in Peru.
- Recruited consultants have started working in collaboration with the project implementing team for the design of materials/guides/manuals of good practices, for trainings in the prevention of forest damage, while contributing to the capacity building for the benefit of relevant stakeholders.
- Preparatory tasks for the organization of training sessions, through virtual meetings, are undertaken for the transfer of knowledge to selected relevant target groups linked to the management of forest fire in the 5 target regions (Cajamarca, Huánuco, Pasco, Junín and Ucayali), while ensuring effective coordination between public and private institutions.

The selection of eleven (11) main consultants was delayed and finalized in July 2021 because of the requirement, for SERFOR, to comply with the provisions of the national contracting legislation in force in Peru. This delayed selection of main consultants combined with the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru has led to the low-level execution of most project activities, so that the conditions for the extension of the project implementation duration shall be discussed between all parties during the fourth quarterly of 2021.

**(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 (SG):	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 BWP 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 BWP Activity was fully funded by Soka Gakkai (SG), in March 2020, after a successful consultation process between ITTO and SG, 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 (SG). The Memorandum of understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this BWP Activity has been duly signed process by all parties (Government of Togo, REFACOF-Togo, Implementing Agency and ITTO Secretariat) in October 2020, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in October 2020.

The BWP 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 BWP Activity.

Based on information from the implementing agency (REFACOF) and the most recent report, the progress in the implementation of this BWP Activity can be mainly summarized as follows:

- Organization of two sessions with workshops that trained more than 100 people, including 91 women (about 82%) and 26 men (about 18%), in nursery establishment for seedling production, reforestation and agroforestry techniques, as a way to provide technical support to women's groups in two of Togo's poorest Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, where forest restoration and enrichment planting activities have been taking place on identified plots made available by the chieftaincy of two villages (Agouegan village of Lacs Prefecture and Pagala-Gare village of Blitta Prefecture).
- 27,352 seedlings of 12 species (*Khaya senegalensis*, *Acacia auriculiformis*, *Gmelina arborea*, *Terminalia superba*, *Senna siamea*, orange tree, lemon tree, *Sterculia foetida*, *Samanea samane*, *Albizia chivalry*, *Leucaena spp.* and *Parkia biglobosa*) have been produced and used for establishing agroforestry plantations.
- Reforestation of 20 ha including 8ha in reforestation and 12 ha in agroforestry plantation (trees in combination with soybeans, corn, sorghum and beans) which had been contributing to food security with food crops derived from agroforestry activities, while empowering women's groups involved in the project implementation.

The concept note for the Phase 2 of this BWP Activity has been prepared by REFACOF and shared with the financial donor (Soka Gakkai), for review, in order to consolidate and sustain the achievements of the current BWP Activity being implement as a pilot phase in Togo's Blitta and Lacs Prefectures. The finalization of this concept note is to be followed by the signing ceremony between the ITTO Secretariat and Soka Gakkai.

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