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### **ITTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2020 & 2021 (FREEZAILAH FELLOWSHIP FUND)** (Item 15(c) of the Provisional Agenda)

#### **Introduction**

1. This document is prepared pursuant to Decision 4(XXVII), which requested the Executive Director to prepare progress reports on the implementation of the ITTO Fellowship Programme for Council's review during its regular Sessions.
2. In keeping with this Decision, this document reports on the work related to the implementation of the ITTO Fellowship Programme since the end of the Fifty-sixth Session of the ITTC and outlines measures to be considered at the Fifty-seventh Session regarding the operation of the Freezailah Fellowship Fund.

#### **Progress in Implementation**

3. Advertisement and Dissemination of the ITTO Fellowship Programme

The Secretariat continues to advertise the ITTO Fellowship Programme in the Tropical Update (TFU), the Tropical Timber Market Information, on the ITTO website, and our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), as well as at various events.

4. The ITTO Fellowship Network website based on the social network platform was implemented at <http://www.ittofellownet.org/> in June 2014. It aims to: (1) promote the sharing of knowledge and information among ITTO Fellows and alumni on the sustainable management and use of tropical forests and forest resources and other related issues; (2) provide a forum for collaborative work among ITTO Fellows and alumni, and (3) provide a platform for pursuing common interests, such as career development opportunities and networking. The network will serve to provide up-to-date information on alumni activities and events worldwide. More than 1,000 fellows have already registered by the end of November 2021, and have been actively exchanging knowledge and experiences. More fellows are expected to join the network resulting from the ITTO Fellowship Programme.
5. Status of Fellowship Awards

The Fellowship Programme, which began in 1989, has enabled 1427 young and mid-career people from 49 countries working for governments, universities, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector to pursue their professional development and improve their career prospects. Thirty-two percent of the fellowships have been awarded to people from Africa, 30.6% to people from Asia-Pacific, 24.9% to people from Latin America/Caribbean, 9.6% to people from developing consumer countries and 3.1% to people from consumer countries, who carried out their activities in producer member countries. 71.7 percent of the fellowships awarded were in the field of Reforestation and Forest Management, 19.8% in Forest Industry and 8.5% in Economics, Statistics and Markets.

The Programme mainly supports short-term activities, such as short training courses and internships (25.1%), and study and demonstration tours (7.4%). In addition, it also helps people to prepare manuals and monographs (6.8%) and provides small grants for post-graduate study (31.2%). The Programme encourages capacity development of women foresters, and has supported 424 women to undertake fellowship activities, accounting for 30.4% of the total number of fellowships. Eighty-seven

percent of the fellowships have already been completed, while 13% are still operational.

## Funding

6. The total funds for the Fellowship Programme to date amount to approximately US\$14.4 million. Funding has been provided through the generous voluntary contributions from Japan (70%), U.S.A. (17%), the Netherlands (8%), Australia (3%) and others (6%) including Sweden, Finland, U.K., Bali Partnership Fund Sub-Account (b) and the private sector. For awards in December 2021, a total of US\$143,000.00 is available for Fellowship awardees 2021-22.
7. Recalling Decision 4(XXVII) which sets a maximum amount of US\$300,000 per year for fellowship awards, until such time that appreciable increases in funding become available, Council may wish to approve additional funds to cover awards, programme support, and other costs including Fellowship Network for 2021. **The Secretariat estimates that to maintain the Programme at the current level of 20-30 awards per year, an amount of US\$200,000 would be needed in 2022.**

## Report of the Fellowship Selection Panel

8. Fellowship selection for 2021 was conducted electronically, and email exchanges were made to finalize the selection of successful applicants for the Autumn 2021 Cycle. The Selection Panel was composed of:

Chairperson:	Mr. Jesse Mahoney	(Vice-Chairperson, ITTC)
Producers:	Mr. Joseph Appiah-Gyapong Ms. Fathia Maryam Perdata Mr. Roberto Andrés Bosch	(Ghana) (Indonesia) (Guatemala)
Consumers:	Mr. Rob Busink Ms. Kathryn Furby Mr. Taku Sakaguchi	(Netherlands) (USA) (Japan)
And supported by:		
Secretariat:	Ms. Sheam Satkuru Mr. Takumi Akama	

9. The ITTO Secretariat received a total of 96 applications and pre-selected 26 applications which were rigorously scanned and considered as complete applications. The Selection Panel considered these 26 applications, made up of 11 applications from Africa, 9 from Asia/Pacific, 6 from Latin America and Caribbean region. 23% of the applications were in the field of Forest Industry (FI), 1% in the field of Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets (ESM), and 76% in the field of Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM). 35% of the applications were submitted by female applicants.

While reviewing these 26 applications, the Panel used the following selection criteria:

- (i) Consistency of the proposed activities with the ITTO fellowship programme's objective and priority areas;
- (ii) Qualifications of the applicants to undertake the proposed fellowship activities;
- (iii) Applications and benefits of the skills and knowledge to be acquired or advanced under the fellowship activities; and
- (iv) Reasonableness of costs in relation to the proposed activities.

The Panel took into account the balance among the three subject areas and regions as well as the opportunity to promote the participation of women. The Panel also took into account the Strategic Action Plan in its selection Process. The Panel recommends to the Council to award 18 fellowships, subject to the availability of funds at a total cost of US\$127,321. Women account for 39% of the recommended applicants. 39% of the recommended applicants are from Africa, 33% from Asia/Pacific, 28% from Latin America and Caribbean region. The recommended applicants are listed in the Appendix to this report.

10. Due to the limited time available during the Council Sessions resulting from ITTC57 being conducted virtually, all consultations with the Fellowship Panel members were conducted electronically. The final report will be presented to Council by the ITTC57 Vice-Chairman or the Secretariat, by providing a short brief on the selection of awardees recommended by the Panel Members.
11. The 2022 Fellowship Selection Panel is scheduled to be appointed in spring 2022.

## APPENDIX

### LIST OF APPROVED FELLOWSHIPS (Report of the Fellowship Selection Panel)

#### Autumn 2021 Fellowship Cycle

App. No	Name	Nationality	Subject
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#### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, STATISTICS AND MARKETS

063/21A	Alfredo Apaza Ticona	Peru	Participation in Conference, World Forestry Congress 2022, FAO Seoul, Republic of Korea
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#### COMMITTEE ON FOREST INDUSTRY

022/21A	Clerica Mucudos	Mozambique	Study Tour, Identification and registration of lesser-known tropical timber species with the potential to substitute the overexploited native species in Mozambique, Mozambique Agrarian Research Institute, Sussundenga, Mozambique
056/21A	Marshall Adams	Ghana	Technical Document Preparation, Technical Document for Crafting Awareness on the implementation of European Parliament and the Council's Regulation proposal concerning Forest-Risk Commodities Associated with Deforestation and Forest Degradation in FLEGT VPA Countries, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, Kumasi, Ghana
070/21A	Charles Albert	Malaysia	Post-Graduate Degree Program, Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) in Forestry Proposed Research, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
076/21A	Ulfa Adzkia	Indonesia	Short Training Internship (Attachment), Timtrace internship – Multielement analysis for tracing timber origin using Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), Wageningen University, Gelderland, Wageningen, Netherlands

#### COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

016/21A	Bi Tra Aimé Vroh	Côte d'Ivoire	Post-Graduate Degree Program, <i>Cedrela odorata</i> L., a potentially invasive species in forest plantations in the Téné Gazetted Forest (Côte d'Ivoire), SODEFOR: Forest Development Corporation, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
018/21A	James Amponsah	Ghana	Post-Graduate Degree Program, PhD Research in Seed Science and Technology (Forest Seeds), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and

057/21A	Achille Lokossou	Benin	Technology, Kumasi, Ghana Post-Graduate Degree Program, Spatio-temporal dynamics of sacred forests and conservation of threatened timber species in RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018, Southern Benin, Doctoral School of Agronomic and Water Sciences (EDSA), Abomey-calavi, Benin
059/21A	Dicka Kwambe Henock	Cameroon	Post-Graduate Degree Program, Silvicultural treatments in <i>Pericopsis elata</i> Harm plantations: Results ten years after two selective thinning operations (2009-2020), Research Station, Agricultural Research Institute for Development (IRAD)
075/21A	Enagnon Bruno Lokonon	Benin	Technical Document Preparation, Assessment of the Impact of COVID-19 on Sustainable Forest Management in West Africa, Laboratoire de Biomathématiques et d'estimations Forestières, University of Abomey-Calavi, Benin, Abomey-Calavi, Benin
003/21A	Gunawan Simanjuntak	Indonesia	Short Training Course, Geographic Information System (GIS) for Ecosystem Services Measurement, Institute of Research and Community Service/Mulawarman University, Samarinda, Indonesia
010/21A	Shiny K S	India	Participation in Conference, Annual conference of The International Research Group on Wood Protection( IRG-WP, IRG-53) to be held in Bled, Slovenia, The International Research Group on Wood Protection, Stockholm, Sweden
024/21A	Nyi Lwin Soe	Myanmar	Post-Graduate Degree Program, Master's Degree Programme in Forestry (CBU), University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu, Finland
095/21A	Linh Luong	Viet Nam	Technical Document Preparation, Seed propagation guidelines of endangered dipterocarp species, Center for Nature Conservation and Development, Hanoi, Viet Nam
060/21A	Basmatee Mohabeer	Guyana	Short training internship (attachment) and study tours to the PEFC International Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland and the Malaysian Timber Certification Council in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
061/21A	Talia Lostaunau	Peru	Technical Document Preparation, Production, publication, and dissemination of a short documentary on forest fires management in Peru, SERFOR, Lima & others, Peru
081/21A	Sandra Rodriguez Pineros	Colombia	Participation in Conference, World Forestry Congress 2022, FAO Seoul, Republic of Korea
084/21A	Rodrigo Pinto	Brazil	Participation in Conference, XV World Forestry Congress, Korea Forest Service, Republic of Korea