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**REPORT OF THE EXPERT PANEL  
FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS**

**Fifty-seventh Expert Panel  
Virtual review June/July 2022**

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**REPORT OF THE 57<sup>th</sup> EXPERT PANEL FOR THE  
TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS  
(Expert Panel)  
VIRTUAL REVIEW**

## **1. EXIGENCIES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

The 57th meeting of the Expert Panel was scheduled to be held at the ITTO Secretariat in Yokohama, June-July 2022. Due to continued exigencies of the COVID-19 pandemic including immigration restrictions, quarantine requirements, disruption and cancelations of flight routes, it was not possible to physically convene the meeting or to reschedule. In order to not leave the eleven proposals received under the Spring 2022 (Deadline 17 December 2021) and Autumn 2022 (Deadline 15 April 2022) cycles, the Secretariat proposed to the members of the Expert Panel a virtual review procedure (see section 4). The procedure was considered feasible and endorsed by the members of the Expert Panel.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Expert Panel (ITTC/EP-57) worked in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached, see **Appendix I**. Furthermore, it has been guided by the endorsement of the Council at its 40th Session of Document ITTC (XL)/5 and, in particular the authorization contained in paragraph 7, to apply the “Revised ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals”. The Fifty-seventh Panel appraised the proposals and classified them according to categories listed in **Appendix II** applying the current consolidated version of the scoring system summarized in **Appendix V** and **Appendix VI**.

## **3. PANEL MEMBERSHIP**

The Fifty-seventh Expert Panel was attended by the eleven members listed in Appendix IV, with one nomination from the Consumer Group still pending at the time of preparing this report. Due to the virtual review process agreed (see section 4), no Chairperson was elected for this Expert Panel.

## **4. APPRAISAL PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA**

- 4.1. The procedures, aspects and guidelines applied by the Panel to appraise Project and Pre-project Proposals are laid down in the Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of ITTO Project Proposals (Appendix I). The appraisal also took into account the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) and the ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW).
- 4.2. The panel members also made use of the established ITTO scoring system for the technical appraisal for proposals which has been created as a tool to facilitate the categorization of the proposals.
- 4.3. All documentation needed by the Panel members for their appraisal was posted online (using Dropbox) including the proposals, review instructions, introductions of each proposal prepared by the Secretariat, scoring sheets, briefing notes for new panel members or relevant ITTO guidelines.
- 4.4. The virtual process was launched on 20 May 2022 with a deadline of 1 July 2022.
- 4.5. The appraisal procedure endorsed by the members of the Expert Panel included the following steps:
  - a) In accordance with established practice, each proposal was assigned to two Panel members, one from a Producer country and one from a Consumer country
  - b) Each Panel member would complete the common appraisal sheet (Scoring Table) for the proposals assigned to her/him
  - c) After completion the appraisal sheets (Scoring Table) would be returned to the ITTO Secretariat
  - d) In cases where both reviewers ranked a proposal as Category 1 (commended to the Committee with only minor modifications required), such proposal would go forward to the Committee/Council for approval
  - e) In cases where both reviewers ranked a proposal as Category 4 (not in line with ITTO objectives or requiring complete revision), the proposal would be returned to the proponent
  - f) In all other cases (reviewers have a divergence of views/rank differently, reviewers rank a proposal as Category 2 (requiring essentials revisions) or Category 3 (a pre-project is required), such proposals would be held until such time that the panel can physically meet.
- 4.6. In cases where revised proposals were submitted, the Panel members also referred to the overall and specific recommendations made by the earlier Panel(s) to assess if these recommendations had been adequately addressed.

## 5. APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT

- 5.1. Eleven (11) project proposals were received for appraisal by the Fifty-seventh Expert Panel, including three proposals, i.e., PD 926/22 (I) 'Promotion of Sustainable Domestic Consumption of Wood Products in Thailand', PD 927/22 (F) 'Development of an Information System on the Potential for Wood and Carbon to Support Sustainable Forest Management in South Kalimantan, Indonesia', and PD 928/22 (I) 'Development of Sustainable Domestic Market for Wood Products', resulting from concept notes submitted under previous calls for concept notes under ITTO's new financing architecture – phase II in accordance with Decision 4(LVI). The overall list of 11 Project Proposals reviewed by the Expert Panel and the category of decision allocated to each proposal is presented in Appendix III. The procedures and criteria applied for the assessment have been specified above in section 4.
- 5.2. The ITTO Secretariat allocated the Project Proposals in two blocks so that the Panel could deal with all proposals related to Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM) (9), and with those related to Forest Industry (I) (2). No proposals were related to Economics, Statistics and Markets (ESM) (0). This arrangement facilitated the appraisal as well as the formulation of the overall assessment and specific recommendations for each proposal listed in the Annex of this report.
- 5.3. The ITTO Secretariat assisted the work of the Panel by providing a general introduction of each proposal, also addressing any previous deliberations.
- 5.4. In following-up the results of the appraisal and following common practice, the Secretariat provided the following information and documents to all countries who have submitted proposals:
- The Overall Assessment and Specific Recommendations on each proposal submitted by the country (Annex);
  - General findings and final categories commended by the Panel.

## 6. GENERAL FINDINGS

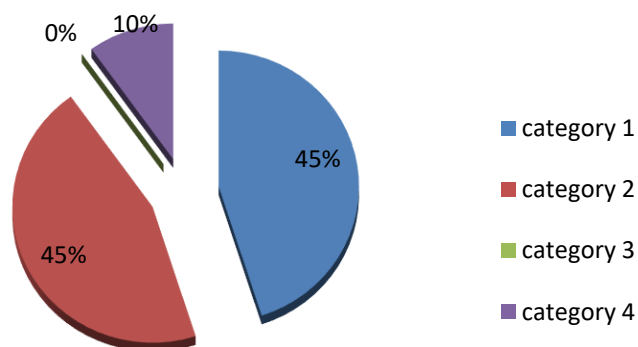
The Panel noted that:

- Five (5) Project Proposals (45 percent of the total) were commended to the Committee for final appraisal with minor modifications required (category 1);
- Five (5) Project Proposals (45 percent of the total) will be sent back to proponents for essential revisions, rated as category 2;
- None (0) Project Proposal (0 percent of the total) received a category 3, indicating that the project requires a pre-project to better formulate a new proposal; and
- One (1) Project Proposal (10 percent of the total) received a category 4, indicating that the Expert Panel does not commend these to the Committee for approval as they require complete reformulation.

See paragraph 7, pie chart "*proposals by category*".

## 7. PANEL DECISIONS ON PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS

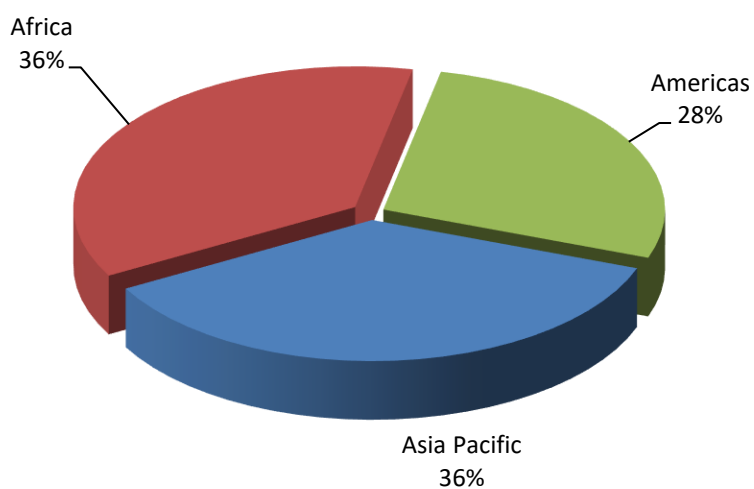
The Panel's decisions are listed in Appendix III, in accordance with established practice. Proposals classified by category, by regions, by committee areas and by submitting countries are summarised in the following tables and charts:



**Summary of Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the Fifty-seventh Expert Panel by Region**

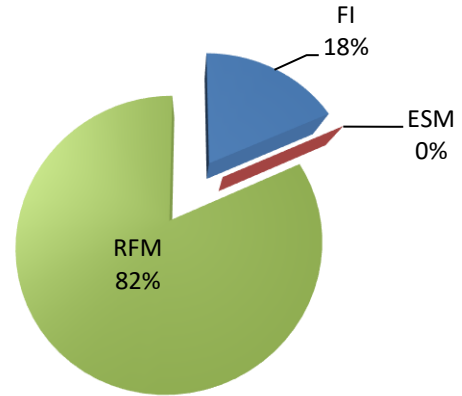
Region	Project Proposals				Pre-project Proposals				Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	
<i>Americas</i>	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
<i>Asia Pacific</i>	2	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
<i>Africa</i>	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>

RFM = Reforestation and Forest Management  
 FI = Forest Industry  
 ESM = Economics, Statistics and Markets



**Decisions of the 57<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Committee Area**

Category	Committee			Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	
<i>Projects</i>				
1	3	2	-	5
2	5	-	-	5
3	-	-	-	-
4	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Pre-projects</i>				
1	-	-	-	-
2	-	-	-	-
4	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>



**Decisions of the 57<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Submitting Country**

Country	Category				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Benin	2	1	-	-	3
Guatemala	-	1	-	-	1
Indonesia	1	2	-	-	3
Mexico	-	-	-	1	1
Peru	1	-	-	-	1
Thailand	1	-	-	-	1
Togo	-	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>

Note: Parenthesis indicates pre-project.

## APPENDIX I

### TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT PANEL FOR THE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Panel shall:

- (i) Assess new Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the organization. The recommendations for amendments to these proposals shall be made by the Expert Panel exclusively for the purpose of ensuring their technical soundness;
- (ii) Screen the Project Proposals for their relevance to ITTO's Action Plan and Work Programs (in the areas of Economics, Statistics and Markets, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry), and consistency with ITTO decisions and policy guidelines, but not otherwise prioritize them;
- (iii) Where reformulation involving major amendments is recommended, request to carry out a final appraisal of the revised versions of Project and Pre-project Proposals, prior to their presentation to the relevant ITTO Committees;
- (iv) Report on the results of the technical assessment of Project and Pre-project Proposals to the submitting governments and to the ITTO Council and Committees, through the ITTO Secretariat;
- (v) The Expert Panel shall take into consideration previous Expert Panels' reports.

The Expert Panel, in assessing Projects and Pre-projects, shall also take into account:

- (a) their relevance to the objectives of the ITTA, 2006 and the requirement that a Project or Pre-project should contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Agreement objectives;
- (b) their environmental and social effects;
- (c) their economic effects;
- (d) their cost effectiveness;
- (e) the need to avoid duplication of efforts;
- (f) if applicable, their relationship and integration with ITTO policy work and their consistency to the latest ITTO Strategic Action Plan including:
  - Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Production Forests, 1993;
  - ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests, 1996;
  - ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics, 2020;
  - ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, 2009; and
  - Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, 2015.

## APPENDIX II

### **Rating Categories of the ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals**

#### **Rating schedule for Project Proposals**

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the Pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee (e.g. complete reformulation is necessary; in case of rev.2 Project Proposals; Project not relevant; Project with insufficient information, etc.).

#### **Rating schedule for Pre-project Proposals**

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with the incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that the Pre-project Proposal is not commended to the Committee. The proposal is submitted with the recommendation not to approve the Pre-project Proposal.



**APPENDIX III**  
**List of Project and Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the**  
**Fifty-seventh Expert Panel**

<b>Project No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Category</b>
PD 915/21 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests in Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin	Benin	1
PD 920/21 Rev.1 (F)	Strengthening the Sustainability of Teak ( <i>Tectona Grandis</i> ) Plantation through Conserving Genetic Resource and Increasing Stand Productivity in Muna Island, Southern Sulawesi, Indonesia	Indonesia	2
PD 921/21 Rev.1 (F)	Support for the Conservation and Promotion of Forest Tree Seeds in Benin	Benin	1
PD 923/22 (F)	Development and Sustainable Use of Green Areas with Tropical and Desert Native Species in the Mexicali Municipality of Baja California, Mexico	Mexico	4
PD 924/22 (F)	Implementation of Mechanisms to Strengthen Governance in Three Strategic Ecosystems of Guatemala	Guatemala	2
PD 925/22 (F)	Support to the Local Communities of the Mono Plain for the Promotion and Sustainable Management of Community Forests in Togo	Togo	2
PD 926/22 (I)	Promotion of Sustainable Domestic Consumption of Wood Products in Thailand	Thailand	1
PD 927/22 (F)	Development of an Information System on the Potential for Wood and Carbon to Support Sustainable Forest Management in South Kalimantan, Indonesia	Indonesia	2
PD 928/22 (I)	Development of Sustainable Domestic Market for Wood Products	Indonesia	1
PD 929/22 (F)	Developing Silvicultural Management Models for Forest Restoration Based on the Use of Seed Trees for the Establishment of Natural and Artificial Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru	Peru	1
PD 930/22 (F)	Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management of the Sitatunga Valley Community Natural Park, Benin	Benin	2

**APPENDIX IV**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXPERT PANEL  
FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF PROJECT PROPOSALS  
Virtual review, June/July 2022**

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APPENDIX V

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO Project Proposal (PD)

Weighted Scoring System								
1.	Project relevance, origin and expected outcomes (15)			Mark	Score	Threshold		
1.	1.	<b>Relevance</b>						
1.	1.	1.	<i>Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities (1.2.1)</i>			Y		
1.	1.	2.	<i>Relevance to the submitting country's policies (1.2.2)</i>			Y		
1.	2.	<b>Origin (1.1)</b>				5		
1.	3.	<b>Geogr. location (1.3.1)+ Social, cultural and environ. aspects (1.3.2)</b>				5		
1.	4.	<b>Expected outcomes at project completion (1.4)</b>				5		
2.	<b>Project identification process (25)</b>							
2.	1.	<b>Institutional set up and organisational issues (4.1. + 2.1.1)</b>				5		
2.	2.	<b>Stakeholders</b>				10	Y	6
2.	2.	1.	<i>Stakeholder analysis (2.1.2)</i>		5			
2.	2.	2.	<i>Stakeholders involved at inception (2.1.3.) &amp; implementation (4.1.4.)</i>		5			
2.	3.	<b>Problem analysis (2.1.3)</b>				10	Y	6
2.	3.	1.	<i>Problem identification</i>		5			
2.	3.	2.	<i>Problem tree</i>		5			
3.	<b>Project design (45)</b>							
3.	1.	<b>Logical framework matrix (2.1.4)</b>				20	Y	13
3.	1.	1.	<i>Objectives (2.2)</i>		5			
3.	1.	2.	<i>Outputs (3.1.1)</i>		5			
3.	1.	3	<i>Indicators &amp; means of verification (columns 2 and 3 of the LogFrame)</i>		5			
3.	1.	4	<i>Assumptions and risks (3.5.1)</i>		5			
3.	2.	<b>Implementation</b>				20	Y	13
3.	2.	1.	<i>Activities (3.1.2)</i>		5			
3.	2.	2	<i>Strategy (approaches and methods, 3.2)</i>		5			
3.	2.	3	<i>Work plan (3.3)</i>		5			
3.	2.	4	<i>Budget (3.4)</i>		5			
3.	3.	<b>Sustainability (3.5.2)</b>				5	Y	3
4.	<b>Implementation arrangements (15)</b>							
4.	1.	<b>Project's management (EA - 4.1.1, Key staff - 4.1.2, SC - 4.1.3)</b>				5	Y	3
4.	2.	<b>Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation (4.2)</b>				5		
4.	3.	<b>Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning (4.3)</b>				5		
<b>Entire project proposal (100)</b>					<b>100,0%</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>75%</b>	
<b>Category</b>					<b>1</b>			

Marks indicate:

- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
- 5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

**Rating categories:**

Category 1:	The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.
Category 2:	The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.
Category 3:	The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.
Category 4:	The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS (PPD)

Weighted Scoring System							
1.	PRE-PROJECT CONTEXT (5)			Mark	Score	Threshold	
1.	1.		Origin and justification		5		
1.	2.		Relevance				
1.	2.	1.	<i>Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities</i>			Y	
1.	2.	2.	<i>Relevance to the submitting Country's policies</i>			Y	
2.	JUSTIFICATION OF PRE-PROJECT (15)						
2.	1.		Objectives		15	Y	9
2.	1.	1.	<i>Development objective</i>	5			
2.	1.	2.	<i>Specific objective</i>	5			
2.	2.		Preliminary problem identification	5			
3.	PRE-PROJECT INTERVENTIONS (25)						
3.			Outputs and activities		10	Y	7
3.	1.		<i>Outputs</i>	5			
3.	2.		<i>Activities, inputs and unit costs</i>	5			
3.	3.		Approaches and methods		5		
3.	4.		Work plan		5		
3.	5.		Budget		5		
4.	IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (15)						
4.	1.		Executing agency and organizational structure		5		
4.	2.		Pre-Project Management		5		
4.	3.		Monitoring and reporting		5		
<b>Entire project proposal (60)</b>					<b>100,0%</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Category</b>					<b>1</b>		

Marks indicate:

- 0 - Information is completely missing
- 1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
- 2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
- 3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
- 4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
- 5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

**Rating categories:**

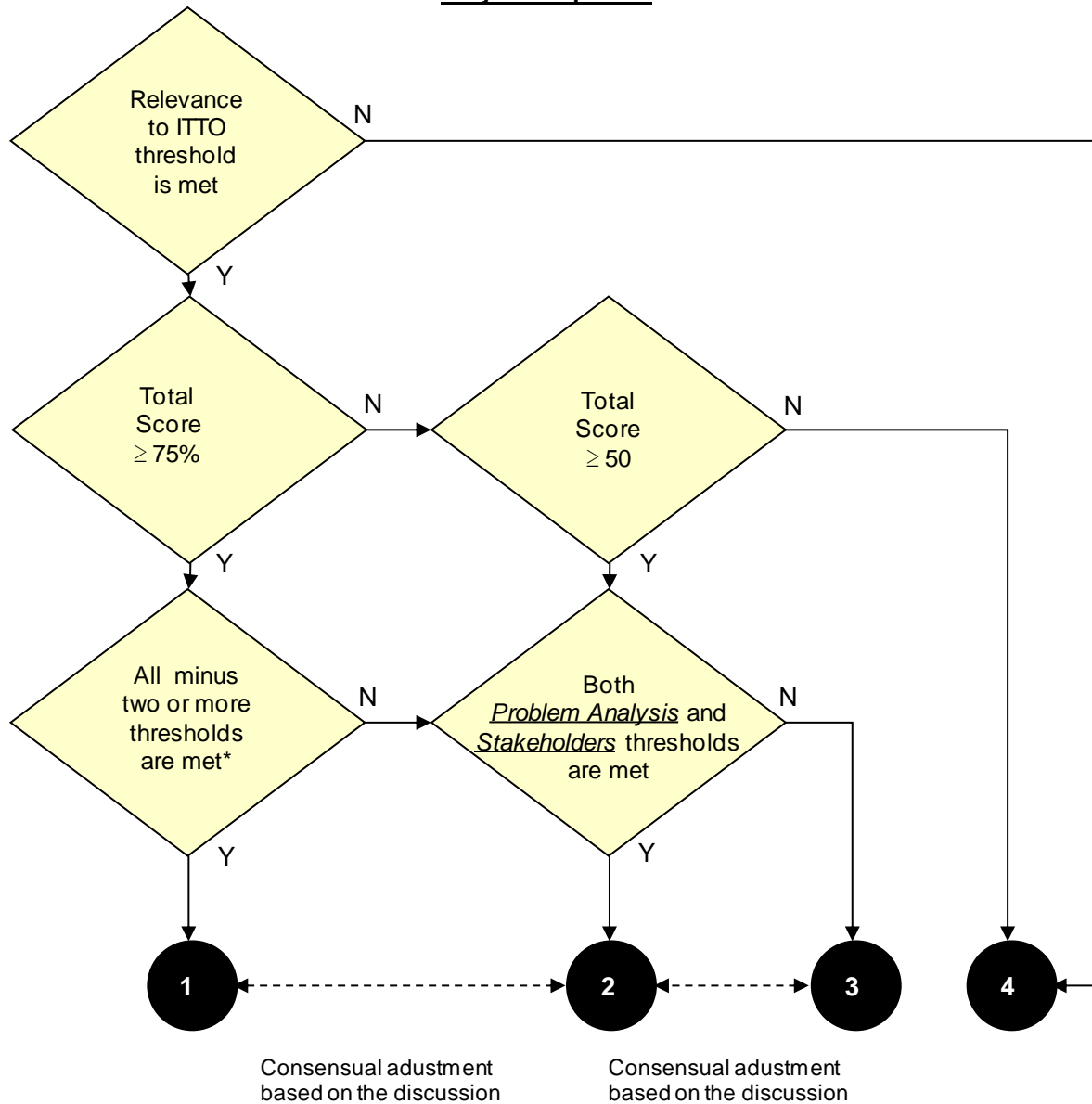
Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee

**Appendix VI**  
**Flow charts for deciding categories in the scoring system**

**Project Proposals**

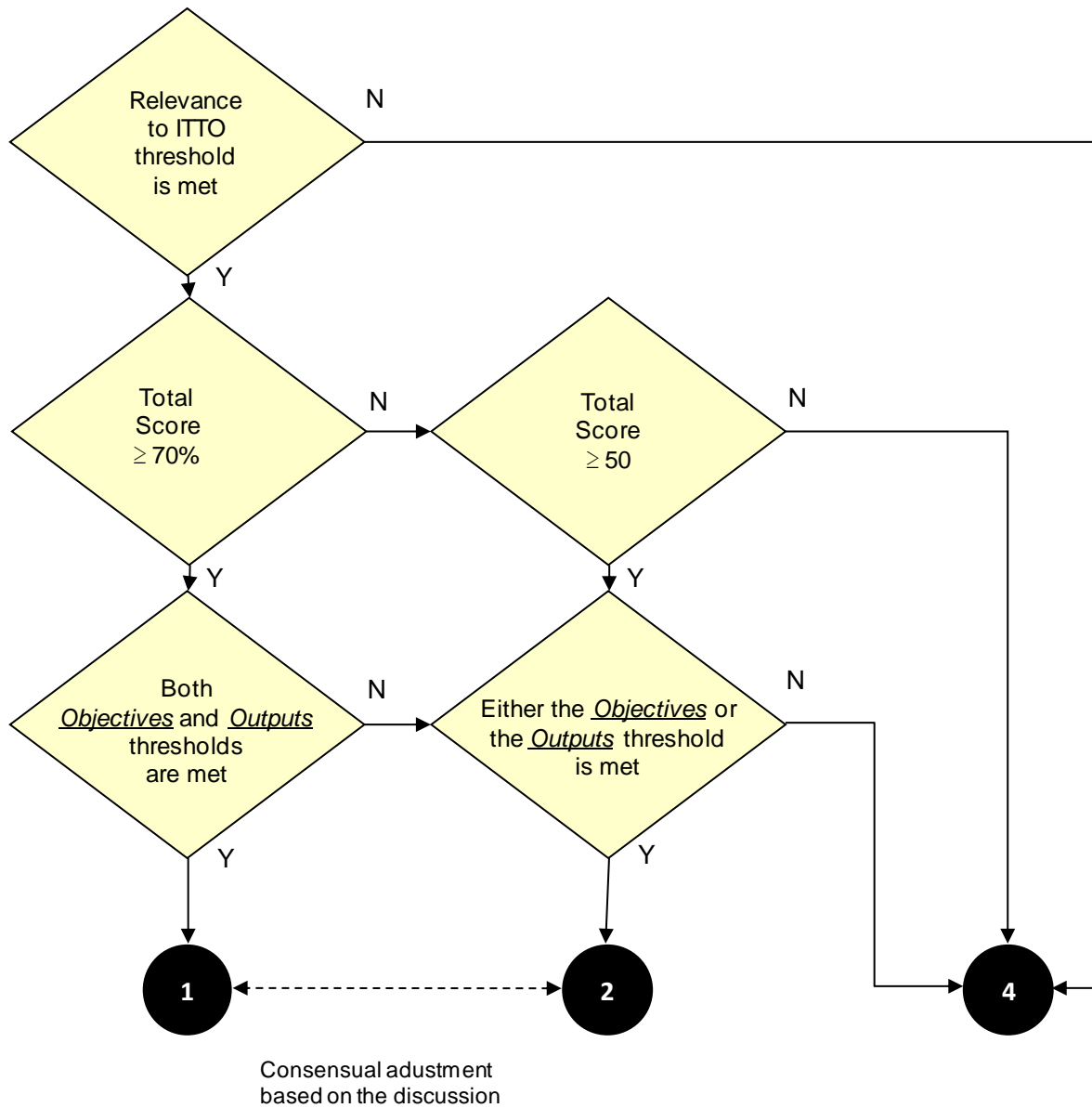


\*Thresholds failed cannot be any two among the following three:

- Stakeholder
- Logical Framework
- Sustainability

- Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments. Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.
- Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee. Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.
- Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a pre-project proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal. Proposal is missing fundamental information, consequently a pre-project is required and to be submitted to the EP.
- Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee. Proposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

**Pre-Project Proposals**



Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments. Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee. Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee. Proposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

## **Annex**

**Assessment, recommendation and conclusion by the Fifty-seventh Expert Panel on  
each Project and Pre-project Proposal**



Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this proposal intending to contribute to the restoration and sustainable management of Sacred Forests (SFs) within Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin, in order to strengthen and consolidate the achievements of the previous completed project PD 754/Rev.3 (F). The panel noted that this proposal is a follow-up to PD 754/14 Rev.3 (F) project titled "*Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin*". The purpose of this proposal is to strengthen and consolidate the previous project's achievements, and to go beyond the pilot implementation stage of a number of project activities and move towards the completion of major achievements necessary for the valorization and sustainability of SFs.

The Panel acknowledged that efforts had been made to address most of the comments in the overall assessment, as well as most of the specific recommendations, made by the Fifty-sixth Expert Panel. However, the Panel noted that there was still a need for improvement of some sections and sub-sections (origin, social and economic aspects, logical framework matrix, assumptions and risks, budget components, stakeholder involvement mechanism, etc.) of the revised project proposal. This revised proposal was considered as Category B of ESM (Environment and Social Management Guidelines) because it potentially has adverse environmental or social impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas, which could be prevented, minimized, mitigated or compensated through appropriate measures.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following recommendations:

1. Further improve the Sub-section 1.3.2 (Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects) by properly describing the social, cultural, economic and environmental background of the project area at the time of project identification and further provide appropriate demographic and social data for the people living in the project area while referring to the relevant elements provided in the ITTO Environmental and Social Guidelines (PS-23).
2. Further re-visit the logical framework matrix (LFM) by avoiding long term indicators for achievements that cannot be measured upon project completion, such as those with reference to the year 2030, and by including only those indicators to be achieved upon project completion, while making sure to comply with the requirements provided in the ITTO manual for project formulation (SMART indicators with time-bound not beyond the project duration).
3. Further improve the impact indicators of the development objective, which are supposed to be SMART indicators with time-bound not beyond the project duration, by not referring to the year 2030.
4. Clarify the reference made to stages or delete it in the Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods) as it is mentioned that the project implementation will follow three stages based on outputs, but the workplan indicates that all 3 outputs will be implemented simultaneously.
5. Further improve the Sub-section 4.1.4 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms) by establishing a consultative committee comprising representatives of local and regional authorities and organizations, local communities, SF authorities and particularly representatives of the neighboring subsistence farmers, with a view towards mitigating land tenure conflicts.
6. Further improve the Sub-section 4.3.2 (Project learning mainstreaming), by clearly describing how the projects results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans regarding the RAMSAR sites, the Mono Biosphere Reserve and others, as per the ITTO Manual requirements.
7. Add as annexes, the terms of reference (TORs) for all subcontracts mentioned under the budget line 20 and also the TORs for justifying the following budget items/sub-items: 611.1, 615.1, 617.1, 623, 624.1, 632.1, 634, 61.2, 61 (1-page maximum TOR).
8. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
  - a) Internally readjust the budget as there is no budget required for the production of seedlings,

- b) Delete the budget items under Component 20 (subcontracts) and some abovementioned budget items under Component 60 (miscellaneous) if they are not adequately justified in the Section 3.2 (implementation approaches and methods) and with appropriate TORs to be added as annexes,
  - c) Include a vehicle and motorbike in the counterpart budget or eliminate all vehicle maintenance, servicing and fuel from the Executing Agency budget,
  - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82), if the ITTO budget is readjusted to taking into account the above overall assessment and specific recommendations; and
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.
- C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category B on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project proposal aims at increasing the productivity of teak forests/plantations and conserving genetic resources of teak on Muna Island, southeast Sulawesi, as teak forest resources have been reduced drastically in recent years. The project is expected to motivate farmers to plant teak trees and apply teak agroforestry techniques. It is intended to establish seed orchards, teak conservation plots and teak nurseries. It also recognized that efforts have been made to address some comments in the overall assessment and some specific recommendations made by the Fifty-sixth Expert Panel. It has made clear what the impacts of the study will be on teak sustainability on the one hand and resource conservation on the other hand.

However, the Panel noted that the revised proposal is still written in poor English, making it difficult to understand what the proponent wants to express. Several expressions are also used in the Indonesian language. It's still not very clear how the study will resolve the lack of interest of farmers and stallholders to participate fully in this project. The roles of the myriad of consultants with the budget on top is also unclear despite the fact that as a whole it has been revised downwards by 14.85% of the original budget. The project proposal is still quite unspecific. The present situation is not clear, the same applies to the role of the community and the Government in the management of teak forests. The role of the intended agroforestry issue is disappearing in the progress of the proposal. The expected outcomes of the project are highly questionable. The project costs are still rather high and comprise an overloaded project management. The sustainability of the project is questionable.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. The maps (p.8, fig. 1) are confusing as captions with different colors are not provided.
2. In Section 1.3.2, the existing conflicts are not yet clear. Are there conflicts between ethnic groups or communities with the government? It is still necessary to clarify if there is sound interaction or any conflict in competition for the resources given the diversity of the local people both in cultural practices and beliefs, and also to highlight the specific conflict with government aside the power to allocate concessions to timber brokers and processors.
3. In Section 2 (Expected outcomes), it is improved but FGD is missing in the list of abbreviations. In the social forestry sector it mainly refers to **Focus Group Discussion**.
4. In Section 2.1.1 (effective collaboration), it is weakly addressed by inserting only 1.5 sentences. Changes in the stakeholder framework are partly not bold or underlined. Why is the potential of local NGOs in "benzoine business" relevant?
5. In Section 2.1.3 (problem analysis), after seed collection the seeds must germinate before seedlings can be handled. Explain what mean about a specific design in the planting out. The activities concerning the vegetative propagation in hedge orchards are not clear. What shall be done for which reason with which aim?
6. In Section 2.1.4 (indicators), the indicators for Output 1 are wrongly prioritized. At first the genetic diversity must be assessed before teak seeds shall be harvested.
7. There has been significant improvement in the logical framework matrix, however it's important to clarify that the documentation of the genetic diversity of teak is through common garden environment studies. There is no need for investor involvement in this project.
8. In Section 2.2.1 (development objective), define the increase of "productivity" of teak forests. Is it an increase in seed production?

9. In Section 2.2.2, it is planned to establish a 5 ha conservation plot but it is not clearly stated that this will be planted and why it is not foreseen in natural stands *in situ*.
10. Section 3.1.2 (activities) was improved, but there is still a need to be more specific in the activities. A.1.1: It is still unclear how 5 distinct populations will be identified. Which indicators will be used to identify 100 parent trees? A 2.2 the role of hedge orchard is unclear. How will the clones be tested?
11. In Section 3.2 (outputs), Output 3 and the related activities are unclear. Why is collaboration with "investors" necessary? Investors are not mentioned in the stakeholder analysis.
12. In Section 3.3 (work plan), make clear what is the difference between activities 1.3 and 2.1. The matrix has a word "Tahun" which is guessed as a year divided into four quarters. English translation must be employed.
13. In Section 3.1, provide details on how access to investors will be achieved. They must be motivated to cooperate with farmers. This seems difficult to reach.
14. Outline the differences between Activities 2.4 and 3.2. Activities 4.1 and 4.2 (desk studies) are planned for 24 months. Much literature and academic material on teak management and conservation can be accessed from the internet monographs and text books. The time consumption can be reduced by 50 % minimum. Changes are not bold and/or underlined in the table.
15. Despite the improvement in the budget and reduced by 14.85%, the component of the in-kind contribution has shrunk. It also raised the question why activities 4.1 and 4.2 should not be conducted by executing agency either alone or with consultants to reduce budget. This needs to be analyzed further.
16. Payments for project coordinator and experts should be revised downwards. There is no budget for molecular work despite a major activity of genetic studies. This should be prioritized against PC and expert allowances.
17. The assessment of the assumptions and risks is weakly improved by 2 lines. Explain how the risks can be minimized.
18. Section 3.5.2 (sustainability) is still questionable and unclear. The interpretation of the newly inserted paragraph sounds as if sustainability is provided after the project completion when more financial means are available. The future roles of the EA are not well presented.
19. In Section 4.1.2 (project management), there is nothing changed without giving any reason. Although the proponent claims to have the staff reduced in the table of changes.
20. Indicate the qualifications and experience of the PSC members in Section 4.1.3.
21. Section 4.3.1 (dissemination) is insufficient to state "Disseminate the results ... to other farmers". Say how this will be done.
22. In Section 4.3.2 (project learning), the newly inserted sentence is misleading. Project results should be transferred to other regions with similar problems. Discuss how well all activities will be coordinated. Any past experience of collaboration among stakeholders, especially at local levels?
23. In Annex 1 and 2, what is the difference between BP2TPTH (also used on front page) and BPTPTH ? The information provided under 1-4 and those should be also provided in 4.1.1.
24. In Section (budget), the budget requested from ITTO has been reduced by \$ 57,000. Since the number of expensive staff is not reduced and is heavily overloaded, the budget is still high. It is questionable what a project secretary, a treasurer, a trainer and a trainee are necessary.
25. Two subcontracts are foreseen (identification of genetic diversity, and establishment of demonstration plot), but no ToRs are provided. It is questionable why the establishment of a demonstration plot must be outsourced on a subcontract basis, when researchers are involved in the project.
26. The contribution of the Govt. of Indonesia is quite low (<10 %). Duty travel (item 30) with \$ 108,410 appears to be very high. Clarify the airfares calculated with \$ 45,000 (ITTO) and \$ 3,600 (EA).

27. Provide concise CVs of key experts provided by the Executing Agency and ToRs of ITTO-funded personnel and consultants.
28. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

**PD 921/21 Rev.1 (F) Support for the Conservation and Promotion of Forest Tree Seeds in Benin**

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The importance of this project proposal was acknowledged by the Panel for its aim to ensuring the production of certified seedlings for forest tree species in sufficient quantity with the goal to increase national forest cover through long-term efforts on reforestation and soil conservation in Benin. The unavailability of high-quality forest tree seeds, in particular those of most used species, impedes the forest production increase and activities regarding the forest landscape restoration in Benin. It was recognized that efforts had been made to address most of the comments in the overall assessment, as well as most of the specific recommendations, made by the Fifty-sixth Expert Panel.

However, the Panel noted that there were still a need for improvement for some sections and sub-sections of the revised project proposal dealing with: **(1)** impact indicators of the development objective with confusing percentages of achievement; **(2)** project implementation approaches and methods not clearly describing, in the Section 3.2, how the Output 2 will be achieved through the project implementation; **(3)** in the Section 3.3 (Work plan) and Sub-section 3.4.1 (master budget), 4 outputs are mentioned, in contradiction with the problem tree and solution tree; **(4)** master budget table and related budget by components have taken into account the elements of Output 4 and associated Activities not derived from the problem tree and logical framework matrix; **(5)** elements on gender equality and empowerment of women not specifically referring to the ITTO Environmental and Social Guidelines (PS-23); **(6)** representative of donor missing in the project steering committee; **(7)** Tasks and responsibilities of the project coordinator and key project personnel missing as annexes; **(8)** the CV of the project manager and key project personnel to be paid by the ITTO budget missing as annexes; **(9)** the TORs for consultants and sub-contractors, under the budget item 20 (Subcontracting), are missing as annexes.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the impact indicators of the development objective by appropriately adjusting the percentages of achievement.
2. Improve the re-visited Sub-section 1.3.2 and Sub-section 1.3.3 by adding appropriate elements on gender equality and empowerment of women in compliance with the ITTO Environmental and Social Guidelines (PS-23).
3. For ensuring the consistency with the problem analysis and logical framework matrix, delete the Output 4 and associated Activities in the Section 3.3 (Work plan) and Sub-section 3.4.1 (Master budget).
4. Further improve the implementation approaches and methods by clearly describing how the Output 2 will be achieved through the project implementation.
5. Improve the Section 4.1.3 (Project steering committee) by adding the representative of donors in the Project Steering Committee.
6. Add as annexes, the 1-page CV of the project coordinator and key project personnel, as well as a brief description of their tasks and responsibilities,
7. Add as annexes, the TORs following the structure included in the ITTO Manual (page 68, French version) for consultants and sub-contractors mentioned to be paid by ITTO budget item 20 (subcontracting),
8. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
  - a) Improve the master budget table by deleting all activities associated to the Output 4, and it should be the source for the readjustment of budgets by component, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
  - b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

PD 923/22 (F)

**Development and Sustainable Use of Green Areas with Tropical and Desert Native Species in the Mexicali Municipality of Baja California, Mexico**

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the project aims to raise the awareness of the issue of degradation of the environment and addresses climate change through the establishment of a species demonstration park to implement a demonstration model through a botanical garden that can be replicated. It also recognized that although the project is in a small-scale budget, it is quite significant to address the environmental issues at hand. However, the Panel noted that the project proposal requires a substantial modification to fully comply with the ITTO format on the proposal presentation. The proposal is missing several sections including a project brief that should highlight the problems to be addressed, project objectives, indicators, beneficiaries, expected results, outcomes, and outputs. In addition, there are several weak assessment sections, including the project sustainability, implementation strategy, assumption, and risk as well as budget. The number of the table of content and, acronyms are not provided.

Furthermore, the Panel was not clear about the conceptual framework of merely creating green areas in industrial areas in connection with the ITTO mandates and priority. So, the Panel felt that it is necessary to show the necessity of the project from the perspective of biodiversity preservation. Therefore, the Panel noted that, it is necessary to explain which plant species will be conserved, how endangered they are, and why they are of high preservation value.

The Panel reviewed that this project could be evaluated as Category 3, but concluded that it should not be recommended to submit it to the Committee, since the budget size of the proposal is close to a pre-project in addition to the incomplete information and fundamental weakness of the proposal.

B) Conclusion

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal.



PD 924/22 (F)

## Implementation of Mechanisms to Strengthen Governance in Three Strategic Ecosystems of Guatemala

### Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

#### A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project aims at building local capacities for the management of three strategic forest ecosystems in Guatemala. The project is expected to establish programs to control and prevent illegal activities and improve local governance, as well as to establish a restoration and conservation and knowledge management system in local communities, municipal councils and public agencies.

However, the Panel noted that there were a number of weaknesses in the design and formulation of the proposal. These include: weak stakeholders and problem assessments; unclear presentation of activities mainly focused on training workshops; weak presentation of the logical framework matrix and implementation approaches focused mainly on training; a high proportion of ITTO's budget for hiring many consultants; and weak presentation of the sustainability.

#### B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the analytical summary following the guidance specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Indicate the required budget for ITTO, EA contribution and other sources of funding, as well as % for personnel and capital good costs.
2. Provide a complete list of abbreviations.
3. Improve Section 1.2.1 (Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities) by including the ITTA 2006 objective 'n'.
4. Improve Section 1.3.2 (Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects), taking into account relevant guidance, including the ITTO Guidelines for Environmental and Social Management (PS-23).
5. Present a single map of Guatemala that clearly shows the location of project intervention sites in Section 1.3.1 (Geographic location).
6. Explain what the key beneficiary groups will do after the end of the project as a result in Section 1.4 (Expected outcomes at project completion).
7. Improve Section 2.1.1 (Institutional set up and organization issues) based on the guidance specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation.
8. Improve the stakeholder analysis following the guidance of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Describe the characteristics and size of the groups, age, gender, ethnicity, etc. No tertiary stakeholders were identified.
9. In the problem analysis, identify the key problem that the project will address and explain how the key problem will be eliminated by addressing its causes. It appears that high poverty levels reflect a general social problem and that a consultative framework for actors is essential. Based on the improved problem analysis, present a sound problem tree.
10. Improve Section 2.1.4 (Logical framework matrix) with the identification of SMART indicators. How many women will benefit? What will be the technological tools? How to measure the strengthening of the technical capacity of state agencies?
11. The activities are not concrete. Be more specific in the activities. Which are the native species that will be used for the implementation of nurseries. Are they the ones the community wants to manage?
12. In Section 3.2 (Implementation approaches and methods), is training the solution to combat the loss of ecosystem? If there are other possible solutions, include them accordingly to ensure the systematic application of good implementation approaches.

13. In Section 3.3 (Work plan), the workload in the third year is less than in the other two years. Review the annual workload in a balance way.
14. In Table 3.4.1 (Master budget table), reduce the ITTO budget while increasing the EA's contribution in the purchase of a 4X4 pick-up, a workstation, tablets, projectors, etc.
15. In Table 3.4.2 (Consolidated budget by component), reduce the number of consultants as there are many consultants. Table 3.4.3 (ITTO budget by component) requires the reduction of the ITTO budget and Table 3.4.4 (EA budget by component) recommends the executing agency's contribution to cover the purchase of vehicles, fuel, spare parts and insurance. In item 22, define how many modules are to be developed.
16. Review Section 3.5.1 (Assumptions and risks) considering the lack of clarity and transparency in land tenure, which is fundamental to the achievement of the development goal.
17. Improve Section 3.5.2 (Sustainability) based on the guidance specified in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation.
18. In Sections 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 Is ARCAS the executing agency? Present it in the cover page's summary. Include the main obligations of the executing agency to ensure the success of the project. Improve the presentation of the organizational chart guided by the ITTO Manual. In the Project Steering Committee, include the position of a chairperson to be designated by the executing agency.
19. Improve Section 4.2 (Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation) based on the guidance of the ITTO Manual on Standard Operation Procedures.
20. Improve Section 4.3.2 (Mainstream project learning) by convincingly showing that the project has a broader value and describe how its results will be mainstreamed into national policies and plans.
21. In Annex 3 (ToRs of personnel, consultants and sub-contracts funded by ITTO), there are no ToRs for social consultants, communication consultants, and training consultants. Provide relevant ToRs for such consultants to be supported by ITTO funds.
22. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

PD 925/22 (F)

**Support to the Local Communities of the Mono Plain for the Promotion and Sustainable Management of Community Forests in Togo**

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of this project which could contribute to the development and sustainable management of the Mono Plain forests in Togo, as a way of improving environmental conditions and local community's standard of living.

The Panel noted that the project proposal was well formulated but there was still a need for improvement in the following sections and sub-sections: (1) Some elements of the project brief are not described as required in the structure of project brief included in the ITTO manual for project formulation; (2) Many abbreviations and acronyms used in some sections and sub-sections are not included in the list of abbreviations and acronyms; (3) the town of Blitta is not indicated on the map, as well as the areas to be subject to forest rehabilitation activities; (4) expected out comes at project completion not adequately described; (5) there is a need to get a governmental institution/entity to be a collaborating agency for the project implementation as a way to facilitate the learning dissemination regarding the main project results; (6) for a project one table of stakeholders analysis is required to make a list of those who might be interested in or affected by the project while classifying the stakeholders into operational categories in relation to their impact on the project implementation; (7) there is a need to be have consistency between the problem analysis and the revised table of stakeholders analysis; (8) there is a need to be have consistency between the problem tree and the revised problem analysis in correlation with the revised table of stakeholders analysis; (9) there is a need to have consistency between the logical framework matrix (LFM) and the revised problem tree and associated objective tree, while Clarifying the number of women beneficiaries of training in carbonization methods; (10) development objective and associated impact indicators not adequately formulated; (11) specific objective and associated outcome indicators nor adequately formulated; (12) there is a need to have consistency between the project outputs and the revised objective tree and revised LFM; (13) there is a need to readjust the activities to be associated to each revised project output; (14) the project implementation approaches and methods are not adequately described; (15) there is a need to have consistency between the work plan and the readjusted activities associated to the revised outputs; (16) there is a need to have consistency between the master budget table and readjusted activities; (17) there is a need to have consistency between the ITTO budget table and the revised master budget table; (18) there is a need to specify whether institutional arrangements have been made with ODEF or DRF to ensure the sustainability of main project achievements; (19) the Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation system is not adequately described; (20) terms of reference for consultants and sub-contractors to be paid under the ITTO budget item 20 (subcontracting) are missing as annexes; (21) the ESM screening check list questionnaire is missing as annex.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the project brief following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation.
2. Improve the list of abbreviations and acronyms by adding all those used in the sections and sub-sections.
3. Improve the main map by inserting the town of Blitta (which will be playing a key role for the project implementation as a Chapter of AMEN association in the Region Centrale of Togo), as well as the project sites to be covered by the forest rehabilitation activities.
4. Reformulate the expected outcomes (Chapter 1.4) because the expected outcomes are not project outputs, but the situation or changes expected to occur from the achievement of specific objective. There is a need to refer to the guidance box on page 22 of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
5. Further elaborate the institutional set-up and organizational issues in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation, while making sure to further describe the role of one governmental entity (ODEF or DRF) to be considered as collaborating agency for the project implementation.
6. Merge the two tables dealing with the stakeholder analysis into one table by adequately readjusting the elements describing the elements of each stakeholder, in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
7. Revise the problem analysis in correlation with the merged table of stakeholders, and also revise the problem and associated objective tree accordingly.

8. Improve the logical framework matrix in correlation with the revised problem tree and associated objective tree, while making sure to comply with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
9. Subsequent to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> specific recommendations, here above, redefine the development objective with its associated impacts indicators and the specific objective with its outcome indicators.
10. Revise the project outputs in correlation with the revised objective tree and improved logical framework matrix.
11. Readjust the list of activities associated to each revised project output.
12. Improve the project implementation approaches and methods while making sure to comply with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
13. Improve the work plan in correlation with the revised objective tree and readjusted activities associated with each project output, while ensuring to assign some activities to the collaborating agency to be chosen for the project implementation.
14. Add the terms of reference (TOR) for consultants and sub-contracts to be paid under the ITTO budget item 20 (sub-contracting), as annexes, in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation (1-page maximum for each TOR following the structure proposed in annex 3, on page 68, in French version).
15. Add the ESM screening check list, as annex, for the assessment of environmental and social aspects linked to the project implementation.
16. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment considering to reduce the overall budget **and** specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
  - a) Revise the master budget table (by activity) in correlation with the improved work plan and its associated activities, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
  - b) Need to readjust the budget by component for ITTO and for the Executing Agency in correlation with the revised master budget,
  - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
  - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
17. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

PD 927/22 (F)

**Development of an Information System on the Potential for Wood and Carbon to Support Sustainable Forest Management in South Kalimantan, Indonesia**

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged that the project aims at establishing an information system on timber resources and carbon stocks in South Kalimantan. Information on forest stand is expected to be obtained from satellite and drone images complemented by permanent sample plots (PSP). The information system shall serve in the decision-making process for sustainable forest management.

However, the Panel noted that background information is lacking, and there is no reference to any study or diagnosis indicating how or why the forests in the FMUs were overharvested and/or degraded over time. It is indicated that the FMUs and the forest concessions within them have been in place since the 1980s, but nothing is mentioned as regards the forest management plans and PSPs developed for them, and how the current situation arose. In particular, the Panel made specific comments on the following:

- Satellite images: Information on the parameters which shall be derived from the interpretation of satellite images is missing. Landsat images will be used but there is no mention of which Landsat series will be applied. The latest version is Landsat 9. But from older images time series analyses are possible. Landsat images have the disadvantage of low resolution. It is not possible to identify tree species on the images. Perhaps ESA-Sentinel 1 (radar) and 2 (optical) are more appropriate (10 m resolution). Norway plans to offer free satellite images (NICFI) with a resolution of 5 m two years later ([www.nicfi.no](http://www.nicfi.no)).
- PSP: The method is only vaguely explained. Details on the number of PSP in each stratum are essential. Which stratification criteria will be applied (natural forest, plantations and soil types are mentioned)? Consider the status of natural forest: recently logged or xy years after logging? What about agroforestry plots or different ownership (State vs. communal)? Shall protected forests be used as reference? What will be the size of each PSP? (This has a tremendous influence on the field work.) Which data shall be recorded (species name, dbh, and height must be the minimum).
- Establishment of a new government institution: The proposal provides for the set-up of a new institution which deals with the generated forest data. The impression arise that the EA is planning to establish such a body by itself. It is unclear whether this is in line with Government's policy.

Furthermore, the Panel noted that as a project proposal, several weaknesses were noted in the overall formulation of this proposal, especially in the sections of problem analysis, development and specific objectives, outputs and activities and the project budget. The biggest problems relate to methods, i.e. how field data will be generated and how satellite images will be analysed. Beyond that, the carbon assessment aspect seems to get lost in the course of the proposal. Sustainability of the project is questionable. This proposal needs much clarification, a concise and realistic approach. The Panel particularly noted that the formulation of specific objective, outputs and activities and project budget appeared not to closely follow the ITTO manual for project formulation.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve Section "Project Brief" by elaborating more specially on the problem to be addressed and the outputs it expects to achieve. Incorrect budget figures are typed in the Project Brief. No project partners are listed.
2. The list of abbreviations is incomplete. Include PSP, PHL, PT and other abbreviations that are missing in Section "List of Abbreviations and Acronyms".
3. Provide a more detailed map of project area with inclusion of the current forest concessions in each FMU and specific project areas.
4. Describe how this proposal will comply with and contribute to the achievement of Indonesia's relevant policies and legislation in Section 1.2.2 (Relevance to the submitting country's policies)

5. Improve Section 1.3.1 (Geographic location) by Indicating exactly which FMUs will be part of the proposal, and historically mentioning how many concessions each FMU has.
6. Social, cultural, economic, and environmental aspects are poorly elaborated because there is a lack of data (inhabitants, tribes, communities, conflicts...). Improve Section 1.3.2 (Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects) by providing the information as requested by the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Provide information on forest cover, production and protected forests, silvicultural system, etc. and include relevant quantitative data in tabular form.
7. Describe how the beneficiaries will use the intended outputs and increase their awareness after project completion, and its overall impact on the timber market and environment in Section 1.4 (Expected outcomes at project completion). Avoid describing any long-term impacts. The expected outcomes should be the same as those stated in the project brief and on the front page.
8. Provide details on how the carbon stock will be calculated and how the carbon in the forest soil and remaining debris after logging will be assessed.
9. Improve Section 2.1.1. (Institutional set up and organizational issues) by providing the information as requested by the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Include relevant qualitative and quantitative data in tabular form.
10. The stakeholder analysis is quite general. Their potential and involvement in the project are not properly addressed. Be more specific in describing the problems, needs and interests of all stakeholders in Section 2.1.2 (Stakeholder analysis). It also mentions that the forest concessionaires HAVE managed forests. Clarify if they continue to manage forests or not.
11. Improve the problem analysis and problem tree. An objective tree is presented in the proposal but it should also be improved. Follow the guidance provided in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation to elaborate these.
12. Improve Section 2.1.4 (Logical framework matrix) by clearly describing development and specific objectives, as well as outputs. Use SMART indicators and provide qualitative and quantitative means of verification.
13. Based on the improvement of the problem analysis, the problem tree and objective tree, the development objective and specific objective should be redefined accordingly in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
14. Revise the description of the expected outputs and correlated activities in accordance with the revised objective tree and also revise the work plan accordingly, based on the improvement of the problem analysis. Make the difference of Outputs 1 and 2 clearer. Output 2 is by far too ambiguous as it is not realistic to carry out a field inventory, establish PSP, analyse satellite images, establish a database, an information system and a new institution in 36 months. In Outputs 2 and 3, who shall be trained? In Output 3, explain what PHL and ICS are. It is formulated differently in the logical framework matrix. Clarify how Output 3 builds on output 2, and output 2 on output 1. Sub-activities should be included. Activity 1.1: explain what it means "initiate the establishment of PHL and ICS institutions and Activity 1.3: Presentation of results to whom? Activity 3.2: Only 9 months are foreseen for the establishment, recording of PSP, including analyses and set-up of a database. There is no re-measurement foreseen although this is usually the intention of PSP.
15. Include the Master Budget Schedule as indicated in the ITTO Project Formulation Manual.
16. Specify/provide details for components: 44.1 Computer Equipment and 44.2 Forestry Equipment (\$38,000) in Table 3.42. (Consolidated budget by component). Only 1 expert is mentioned in the budget, although in Annex II, 3 nine (9) consultants/experts are listed. This is inconsistent by component:
17. In Table 3.4.3 (ITTO budget by component), consider ITTO monitoring cost of \$15,000, Ex-post evaluation cost of \$5,000, and include the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with ITTO's standard rate of 12% of the total project costs.
18. In Table 3.4.4 (Executing Agency Budget by Component), EA budget by component needs to Include the necessary counterpart staff required to permanently operationalize the special institutions mentioned to achieve sustainable forest management at the provincial level.

19. Further clarify the risks in Section 3.5.1 (Assumptions, risks and sustainability) while providing greater details on the sustainability. Address medium and long-term sustainability
20. Include MoEF & private sector in Section 4.1 (Organization structure and stakeholder involvement mechanism)
21. Provide concrete procedures in Sections 4.3.1 (Dissemination of project results) and 4.3.2 (Mainstreaming project learning)
22. Provide counterpart personnel with inclusion of tasks and responsibility in Annex 2 (Tasks and responsibilities of key experts provided by the executing agency). Brief CVs of key personal should be provided.
23. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

PD 929/22 (F)

**Developing Silvicultural Management Models for Forest Restoration Based on the Use of Seed Trees for the Establishment of Natural and Artificial Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru**

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project proposal to develop a silvicultural system that encourages seed production to establish natural and artificial regeneration leading to the restoration of harvested tree species for the next generations of the four species. These species include Mahogany and Cedar, which are two CITES listed species have been commercially exploited for generations and two additional species, which have a limited capacity for natural regeneration in the forests.

The Panel noted that the proposal is well structured and formulated in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation and that it is also consistent with ITTO's objectives as set out in the ITTA 2006, as well as with the national forest and wildlife policy of Peru. The scientific approach to meet the objectives of this proposal is well grounded. The proposed study can contribute a lot to unmasking the factors that limit natural regeneration capacities with suggested recommendations for eventual propagation of the four species. Both the development and specific objectives set out are well aligned with the activities developed for execution. The Executing Agency along with the collaborators are well experienced and thereby have a formidable project management and steering committee to ensure the successful implementation of the project if funded.

However, the Panel noted a high budget scale that requested \$1.6 million from ITTO. Aside the recommendation on the budget component to reduce it, another consideration is perhaps to split it into two proposals considering first only the CITES listed species Mahogany and Cedar, and considering the other two species for future study in view of the current funding situation.

The Panel considered that the overall environmental and social impacts can be said to be of lower risk, thereby scoring category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) for this project.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Clearly elaborate the economic, social, and environmental situation of the study area in Section 1.3.2 (Social, Cultural, Economic and Environmental aspects). And indicate how these may affect the project, either negatively or positively.
2. Further elaborate on the engagement of indigenous communities, as well as the status and role of women in communities in Section 2.1.2 (Stakeholder analysis).
3. Improve Section 2.1.3 (Problem analysis) by constructing the problem tree to show levels of relationships / interconnectedness by means of arrows or simple branching establishing a flow.
4. Review the presentation of the indicators for the development and specific objectives in Section 2.1.4 (Logical frame matrix), Section 2.2.1 (Development objective and indicators) and Section 2.2.2 (Specific objective and indicators).
5. For Activity 1.1 (Analysis of spacing between seed trees) of Output 1, explain the rationale for this activity for which budget is allocated.
6. Improve the presentation of the outputs in Section 3.1.1 by further elaborating the measurement of their achievements in quantity, quality, time and space.
7. Improve the presentation of Activity 3.1 (phenology studies) by elaborating an idea of what exactly will be investigated (e.g., timing of flowering, budding, pollinator visit/timing, etc.). Elaborate what type of silvicultural methods are available for intervention (Activity 3.2). More elaborate on the target of concession/ community workers in Activity 4.1.
8. Improve Section 3.2 (implementation approached and methods) by describing in more details the effective and concrete participation processes and approaches, especially with respect to women.



9. Improve Section 3.3 (Work plan) by indicating each activity under each of Outputs 1-4.
10. In the membership of the PSC meeting in Section 4.1.2 (Project management team), representatives of the project's donors should be included. In Figure 6 (Project organization chart), Section 4.1.3 (Stakeholder involvement mechanisms), the donor representative must be included among the membership of the PSC as well.
11. Improve Section 4.3.1 (Dissemination of project results) and Section 4.3.2 (Mainstreaming project learning) by outlining the proposed plan for each occasion.
12. Review and amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment and specific recommendations and also in the following way:
  - a) In Table 3.4.3 (ITTO budget by component), review the unit prices for equipment ranging from laptops to cameras. These must be reviewed downwards. The number of personnel involved in the project is quite high, which inflates the budget as a whole. The budget for Director and technical team is on the higher side (\$169,200) as it looks like they will have a "salary", this needs to be reviewed. Field assistants and brigade leaders attract a whopping \$180,000 in the ITTO budget, the number should be reviewed downwards. Drone rental (\$45,000), accounting and cash expenses (\$72,000), contingencies (\$94,245) must all be reviewed downwards as they all inflate the budget. In addition, some high-budget components should be clarified. These include food (\$80,325), field material (\$92,250), transport rental services (\$111,750), and field support services (\$125,100).
  - b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (budget sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82), and
  - c) Adjust all budget tables, taking into account the correct amount regarding the budget sub-item 83.
13. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (bold and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel took note on the importance of this project which could contribute to the sustainable management of the Sitatunga Valley in Southern Benin, by specifically ensuring the restoration of forest landscapes in the Sitatunga Valley through stakeholder capacity for improving people's living conditions.

The Panel noted that the project proposal was well formulated but there was still a need for improvement in the following sections and sub-sections: (1) present situation of the future project sites not described as required in the structure of project brief included in the ITTO manual for project formulation; (2) the project sites are not clearly indicated on the map for the forest landscape rehabilitation activities; (3) insufficient information on Sitatunga Valley National Park Committee (PNCVS), from which the project originates, as well its current development status; (4) insufficient information provided on social, cultural, economic and environment aspects; (5) lack of information on the institutions involved in forest resource management which were identified in relation to the institutional arrangements and organization issues regarding the project implementation; (6) stakeholders were well identified but not categorized in pros and cons regarding the project implementation; (7) Problem analysis weakly performed with the direct and indirect causes not clearly described; (8) problem tree weakly developed; (9) logical framework weakly defined at all levels; (10) impact indicators not realistically defined for the development objective; (11) outcome indicators defined only in relation to 22 community forests (CFs) for the specific objective; (12) there is a need to have consistency between the project outputs defined in Sub-section 3.1.1 and the objective tree and logical framework matrix; (13) there is a need to have consistency between the project activities defined in Sub-section 3.1.2 and the objective tree; (14) implementation approaches and methods described using incorrect outputs and activities; (15) work plan developed with incorrect activities; (16) master budget table developed using incorrect project activities and subsequently impacting the tables of budget by component (consolidated, ITTO and Executing Agency); (17) Section 3.5 weakly developed regarding the assumptions and risks, and sustainability; (18) terms of reference for consultants and sub-contractors to be paid under the ITTO budget item 20 (subcontracting) are missing as annexes; (19) the ESM screening check list questionnaire is missing as annex..

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Improve the project brief, following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, by further describing the current situation.
2. Improve the main map by clearly indicating the project sites to be subject to forest landscape rehabilitation activities.
3. Improve the project origin by providing more information on PNCVS and its current development status.
4. Improve the section dealing with the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by taking into account the ITTO policy guidelines on gender equality and empowering women (GEEW) and for the environmental and social management guidelines (ESM).
5. Further elaborate the institutional set-up and organizational issues in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation, by providing more information on main institutions to be involved in the project implementation.
6. Identify opposing and supporting stakeholders and describe how to manage opposing ones.
7. Re-do the problem analysis while making sure to identify the relevant and logical direct and indirect causes of the key problem.
8. Develop a problem tree based on new problem analysis and associated objective tree.
9. Redefine the logical framework matrix with elements the new objective tree, while making sure to comply with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
10. Subsequent to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> specific recommendations, here above, redefine the development objective with its associated impacts indicators, as well as the specific objective with its outcome indicators.
11. Properly redefine the project outputs in consistency with the new objective and the redefined logical framework matrix.

12. Redefine the project activities in consistency with the objective tree.
13. Improve the project implementation approaches and methods in correlation with the redefined workplan, while making sure to comply with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
14. Improve the work plan in correlation with the revised objective tree and the redefined project activities associated with each project output.
15. Revise the section dealing with the key assumptions and potential risks in consistency with the logical framework matrix while developing relevant risk mitigating measures.
16. Improve the section dealing with the project sustainability in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
17. Add the terms of reference (TOR) for consultants and sub-contracts to be paid under the ITTO budget item 20 (sub-contracting), as annexes, in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation (1-page maximum for each TOR following the structure proposed in annex 3, on page 68, in French version).
18. Add the ESM screening check list, as annex, for the assessment of environmental and social aspects linked to the project implementation.
19. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment considering to reduce the overall budget **and** specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
  - a) Revise the master budget table (by activity) in correlation with the improved work plan and its associated activities, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation,
  - b) Readjust the budget by component for ITTO and for the Executing Agency in correlation with the revised master budget,
  - c) Adjust the budget item 81 to the standard rate of US\$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US\$30,000 for 3 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US\$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
  - d) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and
20. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 57<sup>th</sup> Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

PD 926/22 (I)

## Promotion of Sustainable Domestic Consumption of Wood Products in Thailand

### Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel

#### A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project is to promote sustainable domestic consumption of wood and wood products in Thailand. The project proposal aligns well with the goal of increasing private sector involvement in sustainable landscapes management, and the overall objective of increasing Thailand's self-sufficiency in the wood products sector, and the consideration of the full value chain, from producers to consumers, are important points of this proposal and to ITTO's mandate and programmatic lines.

It's recognized that the project proposal is consistent with ITTO's mandate and objectives as set out in ITTA, 2006. This proposal is well drafted with concise and clear sentences, and the activities listed are appropriate and realistic. It is noted that the gender component of the proposal will be given priority to joining project activities and all the intended trainings, workshops, and B2B matchings will include women.

However, there are a number of weaknesses in some sections of the project proposal, such as project brief, origin and relevance, expected outcomes, stakeholder analysis, outputs and activities, budget and annex, and implementation arrangements.

Further, one potential hurdle is the lack of enabling legal framework. A suggestion is to consider adding a component that would look at broader enabling factors, outside the forestry sector, and include other Ministries as stakeholders. It is also noted that the project should not be giving preference or singling out one specific certification scheme over another, if multiple certification schemes are valid in country.

It is suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose.

#### B) Specific Recommendations

1. Include an improved and detailed map of project area showing the description of the area's major physical features and ecological characteristics;
2. Explain how the project is related to ITTO's objectives and priorities. List the objectives with their number as in ITTA 2006;
3. Discuss qualitative and quantitative expected outcomes more clearly, and improve the comprehension of the outcomes by giving approximatively the number the stakeholders to be impacted by the project. The policies for promoting domestic uses of wood and wood products should be approved during the project implementation by the National Forest Policy Committee and RFD, not after;
4. In Stakeholder Analysis, include consultations with other ministries which may impact this work.
5. Reformulate the 3rd indicator of the Output 1 which is not SMART as required in ITTO's manual of project formulation;
6. Delete all the sub-activities in Activities section. They can be noted in the budget tables if needed (with budget cost);
7. In the Master Budget Schedule, detail the material to be bought on the budget component 51 mentioned in the activities of the output 2;
8. In Organizational Structure, the project management team is not clear. Redesign the Organizational Structure and make project management team and titles clear;
9. In Annexes, include the ToRs of personnel, consultants and sub-contracts funded by ITTO;
10. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the Fifty-seventh Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

#### C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist

PD 928/22 (I)

**Development of Sustainable Domestic Market for Wood Products  
(Indonesia)**

**Assessment by the Fifty-seventh Panel**

A) Overall Assessment

The aim of this project is to promote strong and resilient domestic consumption of wood products in Indonesia. The Panel recognized that the project proposal was consistent with ITTO's mandate and objectives as set out in ITTA, 2006. The inclusion of sustainable wood products in a targeted project is beneficial and provides room for growth in supporting more sustainable approaches to wood products. The project proposal has been well formulated with concise and clear sentences. However, there are some weaknesses in some sections that need to be improved.

The proposal should more clearly articulate a plan for how it will canvass or survey the market for domestic wood consumption in the four target cities in Java. If the plan is to delegate to multiple competent universities to implement the plan, how will the entities sync methodologies and ensure that focus groups are targeted appropriately and in the same way? The outputs are ambitious without knowing how they will synthesize and analyze data collected. Concentrating on one geographic area, Java, to start is smart, but may bias this study of "wood products" toward wood furniture, given Java is the major producer of artisan wood furniture. There could be other wood products that would be worthwhile to explore that are developed by other provinces with differing local climates. More details on how to "educate future consumers" should be included, as well as how this will be measured for efficacy?

The proponents should more proactively seek gender inclusion by clearly stating that all the trainings and workshops outlined in the proposal will include women with a quantitative targeted percentage. This aspect of the GEEW Guidelines is not highlighted at all in the proposal.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Reformulate the entire project brief as required in the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Describe the existing situation and the problems to be addressed by the project;
2. Add to the list the missing abbreviations and acronyms such as: VIP, IHE, MM, MD, TD, DG SFM etc;
3. Improve the map of the project area. Provide an improved and detailed map with appropriate scale showing clearly the project intervention zones or sites with their characteristics;
4. In Section 1.2.1 Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities, explain how the project is related to ITTO's objectives and priorities. Two ITTO's objectives are just listed here without explanation on how the proposal contribute to reach those objectives;
5. In Section 2.1.1 Institutional set up and organizational issues, reformulate the paragraph by developing the role and responsibilities of different agencies involved in the project implementation such as Directorate General of Sustainable Forest Management, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, Agency of Government Goods and Services Procurement Policy and Provincial Government in Java Island, SMEs, PBPHs, FIAs;
6. In Section 2.1.2 Stakeholder analysis, classify the stakeholders in Primary, Secondary and Tertiary stakeholders as required by ITTO manual of project formulation;
7. In Section 2.1.3 Problem analysis, add the following concern: 'while the impacts of COVID-19 are a major impetus for the proposal, foreign exports are still an important part of the long term equation';
8. Section 3.3, identify responsible person per activity. It could be the project Coordinator instead of the PMU. It should be clear who is implementing the plan? If more than one entity, then how will they work together?; and
9. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the Fifty-seventh Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist