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REPORT ON

PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

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PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

A total of four (4) approved projects are currently under implementation while two (2) projects are awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are twelve (12) approved projects still awaiting full financing. In this report, the projects are grouped into three categories:

- A. Projects under active implementation;
- B. Projects which have financing allocated, but for which the contract or agreement regulating implementation has still not been concluded; and
- C. Projects which still do not have full financing secured

A. PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

- (1) **PD 452/07 Rev.5 (F) Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase II**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,447,891
ITTO Budget:		US\$	556,963
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	556,963	
EMBRAPA:		US\$	576,807
MMA:		US\$	263,271
IFT:		US\$	50,850
Implementing Agency:	Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (EMBRAPA), Belém, Pará		
Period of Approval:	Original version: Spring 2008 Rev. 5: November 2014		
Starting Date and Duration:	August 2017 / 36 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 31 January 2022 (NOLF.20-0020) Second Extension until 31 January 2023 (NOLF.21-0074)		

This project was approved under the Spring 2008 Project Cycle. The Government of Brazil resubmitted the proposal with a modified budget in 2011 seeking another opportunity for funding for 20 months. In 2013, the proposal was further modified in its budget and resubmitted for funding for an additional period of 20 months. The project was fully financed at the Fiftieth Session of the Council held in November 2014, and the Project Agreement was duly signed in December 2015. The Executing Agency, however, came to request the Secretariat for the further modification of the project in its development objective, specific objective and expected outputs in order to focus its activities on the community forests and non-timber forest products (NTFP) in addition to the timber producing forests at a commercial scale. It was stressed by the Executing Agency that both categories of forests require interventions to advance sustainable forest management in the Brazilian Amazon.

In early 2016, the Inception Report was prepared by the Executing Agency based on the aforementioned modified objectives and outputs and submitted to the ITTO Secretariat, together with a request for the first instalment of funds. However, all instalments of funds to ITTO projects were suspended from June to December 2016 due to ITTO financial issues and the implementation of the project based on a reduced budget was reviewed in early 2017. After finalizing an addendum to the project agreement in June 2017, the first instalment was transferred in July 2017. With conclusion of all necessary administrative arrangements, the project became operational in August 2017. The project duration has been extended until the end of January 2023 due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic since April 2020.

The development objective of the project aims to strengthen the adoption of good forest management practices by medium and large scale timber enterprises in the Brazilian Amazon through the transfer of the tools developed under its first phase PD 57/99 Rev.2 (F) "Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase I". In particular, this project intends to: consolidate the Tools for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM Tools); build capacity of training centres and universities of the Amazon region to transfer the SFM Tools to timber enterprises and government agencies responsible for forest management; evaluate the direct and indirect impacts of transferring the SFM Tools to timber enterprises; and disseminate project achievements and products to a large audience of relevant stakeholders.

Expected project outputs include: a set of SFM computer tools consolidated; guidelines to support SFM prepared; capacity of project collaborators for implementing training of SFM Tools strengthened; project clients trained in the use of SFM Tools; strategies for transfer of SFM Tools evaluated; and technical, social, financial and environmental impacts of changes caused by SFM adoption in selected timber enterprises evaluated.

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

- The project team presented the general concept of the project and SFM computer tools to approximately 40 employees of environmental agencies of several states of the Amazon Region in February and May 2022. A detailed presentation was made to the BOManejo tool, which facilitate the planning of logging activities.
- Conducted training on the installation and inventory of permanent plots in the AMAPÁ State Forest, an area under the forest concession of the TW FOREST Company. The training was in the installation of permanent plots, forest inventory of tree species and preparation of data for processing in the MFT software.
- Held a course on "Training in Botanical Identification Applied to Forest Management" in the Tapajós National Forest (Belterra-Pará) in May 2022. The participants were 18 community forest managers linked to the Flona do Tapajós Mixed Cooperative (COOMFLONA) which currently has 269 cooperative members responsible for the management of an area of around 83 thousand hectares, subdivided into three approved forest management units.
- Community management initiatives have been the main focus of the project, although it is also important to include concessionaires. In recent months, in partnership with IFT – two additional community developments were included in the program, one in the Resex Arioca Pruanã (lower Tocantins) and another in the Resex Mapuá on Ilha de Marajó.
- The project team has been active in sharing lessons and experiences from the implementation of field activities at many events, including the National Forestry Dialogue and the Forestry Forum of the Amazon, with activities converging with the Positive Agenda for Sustainable Forest Management.
- A project poster was presented at the poster session of the XV World Forestry Congress held in Seoul, Korea in May 2022. The poster's title was "Community Forest Timber Production Initiatives in the Brazilian Amazon: A joint-effort involving traditional communities and a long-term multi-institutional collaborative engagement"

The expected full returning to field work has been delayed due to the long period of Covid -19. The final PSC meeting is expected to take place in December 2022 with participation of relevant stakeholders to review the implementation of remaining project activities towards the successful completion of the project in early 2023.

(2) PD 764/14 Rev.3 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilot Areas of PNG

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	668,313
ITTO Budget:		US\$	606,313
Government of Japan:	US\$	606,313	
Government of PNG:		US\$	62,000

Implementing Agency: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

Period of Approval:	Rev.1 approved in October 2014 Rev.2 approved in April 2016 Rev.3 approved in March 2017
Starting Date and Duration:	March 2020 / 36 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	Extension until 31 May 2023 (NOLF.22-0037)

The third revised project document accommodating a reduced budget was approved in March 2017 through the electronic approval system and the financing was made in 2017. The project agreement was duly signed in February 2019 after a long consultation with the country's concerned attorney authority and other institutions. The Implementing Agency has prepared administrative arrangements for the commencement of the project in accordance with the rules and procedures of ITTO and PNG FA. After such arrangements, the project commenced in March 2020.

The development objective of the project aims to improve sustainable forest management practices through enhanced community livelihoods and social stability. It is a follow-up to the PNG Forest Authority's Forestry and Climate Change Framework for Action (2009-2015) which highlights the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to community forest management (CFM) programming that engages customary landowners at the local level and enhances the capacity of government institutions at the national level. Specifically the project is to establish a model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that supports CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+) and increases landowner understanding about the goods and services that forests provide. Project activities will be working in collaboration with 6 CFM partners and their pilot landowner groups at the local level. This arrangement has the potential for ongoing replication in the future.

The project will deliver four specific outputs, namely i) Participatory data collection technology is improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; ii) Clan groups are participating appropriately in the National Land Development Program; iii) A data management system is engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and iv) Policy and planning guidelines for CFM are in place.

Since the Fifty-fifth Session of the Committee, the project, amid the COVID 19 pandemic, has been making progress mainly in the following areas:

- Financial Audit Report for 2021 was submitted on 20th May 2022, and approved by ITTO on 22nd June following receipt of evidence of payments to four local CFM partners. The 3rd Yearly Plan of Operation was approved with an additional No-Cost Extension until May 2023.
- A new Project Manager was engaged for the period January 2022 to May 2023. Project implementation arrangements were prepared for the period June 2022 to May 2023, including local and national level monitoring forms for mobile data collection on KoBoToolbox platform.
- Output 1: Guidance Sheets #1-5 was drafted for the five data collection topics, and shared with local partners in East New Britain Province for comments.
- Output 2: Guidance Sheet #6 was drafted for the national sustainable land use policy (Objective E), and shared with local partners in East New Britain Province for comments.
- Output 3: The KoBoToolbox platform was set-up for CFM partners to freely access survey forms using the KoBoCollect mobile app, and survey reports using the KoBoToolbox website.
- Outputs 3 and 4: The Community Foresters Tool Kit was assembled on Google Drive for CFM partners to freely access PDF versions of the project' resources (e.g. survey forms, survey reports, guidance sheets, and reference materials).

The project was successfully re-activated towards the end of the reporting period, following ITTO's approval of the Financial Audit Report for 2021, the 3rd Yearly Plan of Operation with the No-Cost Extension, and the engagement of a new Project Manager.

The model community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment system that has been developed by the project - the Community Foresters Tool Kit - must continue to be field-tested at local and national levels, before being presented at a national workshop during the next quarter. The training, land-use planning and information dissemination activities will follow.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

The project aims to promote the sustainable development of community forestry program (CFP) with increased livelihoods of local communities in support of the effective implementation of SFM in Cambodia in an effort to promote community-based SFM and alleviate poverty in local communities. Its specific objective is to enhance the capacity of local communities and the Forest Administration to effectively implement CFP in the Kratie and Mondulhiri provinces, among the richest regions with forest resource and the highest deforestation rate at the same time. The expected outputs of the project are: i) improvement of the capacity of local communities and forest administration in forest management planning, ii) promotion of the capacity of local communities to operationalize approved forest management plans, and iii) improvement of the capacity of Forest Administration in monitoring and reporting of forest operations by individual Community Forestry Management Units (CFMUs).

During the first year, there have been many achievements through the implementation of the project. The main achievements are i) review and revision of the Existing Manual for the Preparation of Community Forest Management and Development Plan, ii) assessment of forest covers in Kratie and Mondulhiri provinces, iii) implementation of a pilot project for returnable small seed funds with four community forests, iv) a National Validation and Extension Workshop on Guidelines for Preparation of Community Forest Management and Development Plans and Private Forest Registration was organized, and v) many meetings have been conducted with stakeholders and local authorities to address illegal activities in community forests as well as outreach and demarcation of community forests.

The First Meeting of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) was held in Phnom Torteung Community Forestry Meeting Hall, Kratie province on 7th August 2022. The following eight recommendations and decisions were made at the meeting. i) specifying the capacities to be developed, ii) prioritizing the problems to be addressed, iii) planning reinvestment for the balance that occurred in the first year. iv) cooperation with the police to prevent illegal activities in the forest, v) promoting the role of the Forest Department, such as creating a new forest law, vi) close cooperation with the Forest Administration Departments at Cantonment level, vii) finding ways to develop the local economy through forests, and viii) preparing the second yearly plan of operation (YPO) reflecting the result of the meeting. In September, the implementing Agency submitted the second YPO focused on capacity building and patrolling to prevent illegal activities in the forest with identification of measures and ways to strengthen community forestry cooperation between local communities, local police, and local forest agency.

(4) PD 849/17 Rev.2 (F) Increasing Commercial Reforestation Competitiveness in Costa Rica

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	422,165
ITTO Budget:	US\$	335,765
Government of Costa Rica :	US\$	86,400

Implementing Agency: COSTA RICAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL OF FORESTRY/RESEARCH CENTRE FOR FORESTRY INNOVATION (CIF)

Period of Approval: First approval: September 2018
Second approval: November 2020

Starting Date and Duration: June 2022 / 36 months

The first approval of this 36-month project was in September 2018 through the electronic approval system and its validity was extended in November 2020 for additional 20 months. The project was partially financed with an amount of US\$100,000 thanks to the generous contribution of USA during the ITTC 54 in November 2018 and its validity was extended in November 2020 for the duration of 20 months. Additional fund of US\$235,765 was pledged by Japan during the ITTC 57 in November 2021. With the total amount of US\$335,765 secured by the ITTO Secretariat, the project can initiate its activities. The Project Agreement had been signed by all parties in April 2022, and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in June 2022.

The Development Objective of the project is to fulfil the needs of Costa Rican communities through commercial reforestation. The project specifically intends to increase the competitiveness of commercial reforestation in Costa Rica through the development and testing of an effective reforestation financing system that promotes management of forest plantations in the country, increases their m³/hectare/year productivity, and develops high value-added timber products to improve forest producers' income.

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

- The Executing Agency has hired the relevant external consultants to support the project implementing team and has launched the process for purchasing of vehicles, equipment and materials required for the project implementation,
- The consultation and sensitization campaigns have been initiated by the Executing Agency in order to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders, including forestry organizations working on reforestation in Costa Rica, in the project implementation through a participatory process,
- Meetings with forest organizations have been initiated to collect existing information required to prepare a draft on working protocol for forest inventory and mapping of sites for testing of seed provenance in coordination with CATIE Research Centre located in Turrialba, Costa Rica, in relation to the establishment of competitive forest plantations in Costa Rica,
- Identification of relevant species requiring identified genetic improvement for the purpose of reforestation activities in the project target zone,
- List of potential wood products with the highest demand and potential in Costa Rica being prepared in collaboration with main stakeholders involved in reforestation activities in Costa Rica.

The Executing Agency of the project PD 849/17 Rev.2 (F) was not trained on the implementation of the ITTO online monitoring system, for the reporting purpose. Therefore, all reports (Monthly Highlights and related cash flow and financial statements, Progress Reports, Yearly Plan of Operations, etc.) have to be submitted to ITTO Secretariat through e-mail messages as attachments (in WORD and PDF versions).

B. PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

(1) PD 712/13 Rev.3 (F) **Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra, Indonesia – Phase I**

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

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

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

The project was approved in the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and its validity was extended based on a request from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in accordance with the ITTO rules and procedures. The project was partially funded with an amount of US\$100,000 (Republic of Korea) during the ITTC-54 in November 2018 and an additional US\$150,000 (Republic of Korea) during the ITTC-55 in December 2019. The Implementing Agency revised the approved project document into Phase I and Phase II, taking into account the project funds available for immediate implementation. Phase I was approved in September 2021 through an online no-objection procedure. The second draft of the project agreement governing the implementation of Phase I was sent to Indonesia in April 2022 and is still being reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. The project will be implemented as soon as all administrative arrangements, including the conclusion of the project agreement and the appointment of a project coordinator, are finalized.

The Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) covering an area of approximately 705,000 ha in the province of Riau, Sumatra has been recognized as a public-private partnership biosphere reserve by the UNESCO World Monitoring Networks in 2009. However, this biosphere reserve has not been sustainably managed. The main problems include weaknesses in planning framework of GSK-BR without an integrated strategic management plan, weak capacity of concerned institutions in implementing the biosphere reserve concept and poor participation of local communities in management operations. Therefore, the project is designed to initiate an effective implementation framework of sustainable management and conservation of GSK-BR by realizing the management objectives and basic functions of GSK-BR. More specifically, it aims at promoting the sustainable management and conservation of the reserve in an effective manner. The expected outputs are: i) enhanced planning framework of GSK-BR; ii) strengthened institutional capacity to sustainably manage GSK-BR; and iii) promoted partnerships between key stakeholders on the operational management of GSK-BR. All planned activities including the development of an integrated management plan will be implemented collaboratively by local institutions and stakeholders, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, provincial government of Riau, Sinarmas Forestry and Partners as well as local communities and local research and development institutions.

(2) PD 902/19 Rev.3 (F) Management of Upper Baram Forest Area for Conservation and Sustainable Development with Involvement of Local Communities, Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,358,783
ITTO Budget:		US\$	556,083
The City of Basel, Switzerland	US\$	200,000	
The Bruno Manser Funds	US\$	200,000	
Government of Japan	US\$	100,000	
Unearmarked	US\$	56,083	
Government of Malaysia:		US\$	802,700
Implementing Agency:	FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK		
Period of Approval:	Rev.2 approved in October 2020 Rev.3 approved in October 2022		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months		

The project was approved in October 2020. The Bruno Manser Funds and the City of Basel, Switzerland pledged an amount of US\$ 200,000 each (total US\$ 400,000). In addition, additional funds were provided from Japan, the US and the Bali Partnership Funds during the ITTC 57 in December 2021. The Implementing Agency revised the project document to implement field activities based on the secured funds. This revised project document was approved in October 2022 through an online no-objection procedure. The draft project agreement governing the implementation of the project was sent to the Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities, Malaysia in October 2022. The project will start as soon as the project agreement is finalized.

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

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

C. PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

(1) PD 712/13 Rev.3 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra, Indonesia – Phase II

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

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

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

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

GSK-BR covering an area of approximately 705,000 ha in the province of Riau, Sumatra has been recognized as a public-private partnership biosphere reserve by the UNESCO World Monitoring Networks in 2009. However, this biosphere reserve has not been sustainably managed. The main problems include weaknesses in planning framework of GSK-BR without an integrated strategic management plan, weak capacity of concerned institutions in implementing the biosphere reserve concept and poor participation of local communities in management operations. Therefore, the project is designed to initiate an effective implementation framework of sustainable management and conservation of GSK-BR by realizing the management objectives and basic functions of GSK-BR. More specifically, it aims at promoting the sustainable management and conservation of the reserve in an effective manner.

(2) PD 723/13 Rev.2 (F) Capacity Building for Strengthening Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation of the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar Phase I Stage 2

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	487,762
ITTO Budget:	US\$	459,962
Government of Myanmar:	US\$	27,800

Implementing Agency: Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Government of Myanmar

Period of Approval: Rev.1 approved in Autumn 2013
Rev.2 approved in Spring 2015

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

The project was approved in Autumn 2013, and was revised in two Phases focusing on capacity building of Myanmar's national institutes, in particular the Forest Research Institute on biodiversity research in Phase I,

while promoting cross-border cooperation between Myanmar and Thailand in Phase II. The revised project was approved under the 2015 Spring Project Cycle. Phase I Stage 1 began in March 2018 and completed its implementation in March 2020. Phase I Stage 2 is currently awaiting funding for its implementation.

The Taninthayi (Tenasserim) Mountain Range, located along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, covers a global important terrestrial eco-region with a transition zone from continental dry evergreen forests common in the north to semi-evergreen rain forests to the south. As a consequence, they contain some of the highest diversity of both bird and mammal species found in the Indo-Pacific region. The world's smallest mammal, Kitti's hog-nosed bat, equal in mass to a large bumblebee, resides in the limestone caves of this eco-region. However, limited capacity and resources for adequate biodiversity conservation in Myanmar make it unable to contribute to the transboundary biodiversity conservation in this eco-region.

The project aims to strengthen national capacity and resources for effective conservation of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in the Taninthayi Range in Myanmar. The activities of Phase I include institutional capacity building of Myanmar for biodiversity conservation while the Phase II activities are focused on transboundary biodiversity conservation activities in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range in collaboration with Thai partners. The expected outputs include: i) capacity building of national institutions to design and implement biodiversity conservation, monitoring and research programmes in the Taninthayi Range; ii) establishment of initial institutional mechanisms for the transboundary biodiversity conservation in protected areas in the Taninthayi Range; and iii) strengthening of local stakeholder participation and livelihoods of forest-dependent local communities in the transboundary biodiversity conservation areas. At the national level, the project will contribute to establishing transboundary biodiversity conservation programmes and activities that can be further enhanced in the Taninthayi Range between Myanmar and Thailand.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	460,124
ITTO Budget:	US\$	351,944
FCG:	US\$	108,180

Implementing Agency: FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) IN COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB)

Period of Approval: Rev.2: approved in Spring 2015
Rev.3: approved in Spring 2017
Rev.4: approved in Fall 2017

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

This project was approved under the Spring 2015 Project Cycle through the electronic approval system, and partial financing was pledged by CBD and USA at the 51st and 52nd ITTC Sessions in 2015 and 2016. Following revision of the proposal into two Phases to take account of the partial funding available, INAB decided that it wished to oversee the project but not to act as the Executing Agency (EA), and it nominated FUNDACIÓN PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LOS RECURSOS NATURALES Y AMBIENTE EN GUATEMALA (FCG) as the new EA. The project document was therefore revised a final time and was approved through ITTO's online no-objection procedure in September 2017. The project agreement for Phase I was finally signed in May 2018 following delays in finalizing the CBD contribution to the project and implementation commenced the following month.

The ITTO Secretariat proposed to report the project PD 765/14 Rev.4 (F) Phase I under the Committee's "Completed Projects" agenda item during its 56th Session in 2022 because the completion report was submitted beyond the time of finalization of Committee documents due to several members of the project team being directly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Phase II of the project will commence, if funded, following completion of Phase I.

(4) PD 808/16 Rev.4 (F) Conservation of African Barwood (*Pterocarpus Erinaceus Poir*) in the Gazetted Forests of La Palee and Boundiali in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of Local Communities

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	828,718
ITTO Budget:	US\$	566,488
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	262,230

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

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in September 2019
Rev.4: Approved in September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) is a multipurpose tree having a direct role as a source of additional household income. In fact, its technological qualities are such that this timber species is one of the most sought-after in West Africa, much appreciated for cabinet-making, heavy carpentry, outdoor carpentry (Duvall, 2008). In addition, African barwood yields a diverse range of non-timber products including food for human consumption, cattle fodder (Petit and Mallet, 2001), medicines and raw materials for handicrafts (tannins, dyes, sap, resin, etc.). Given these values, African barwood has been overexploited (fraudulently and illegally), especially during the crisis experienced by the country. In addition, due to a lack of awareness raising about fire risks, certain practices involving the use of fire and resulting in forest fires such as the slash and burn cultivation and livestock transhumance are commonly in use in the region and constitute a serious threat for African barwood. Despite the importance accorded to this multipurpose species, the country still lacks scientific and technical information to guide specific silvicultural treatments or to assess the current status of natural stands to identify adequate management strategies. It is today essential for Côte d'Ivoire to maintain and increase plant cover for this multipurpose species, which is in danger of extinction.

This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

(5) PD 818/16 Rev.4 (F) "BOSS - CUSHABATAY" Project – Forest Management and Restoration in the Cushabatay Basin on the Eastern Slope of the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ), Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	827,058
ITTO Budget:	US\$	311,864
CIMA – Cordillera Azul:	US\$	364,954
Other sources:	US\$	150,240

Implementing Agency: CENTRO DE CONSERVACIÓN, INVESTIGACIÓN Y MANEJO DE ÁREAS NATURALES – CORDILLERA AZUL (CIMA CORDILLERA AZUL)

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in September 2019
Rev.4: Approved in September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

This project is in accordance with national goals associated to concrete actions, in the framework of the commitments undertaken by Peru and the national policies for forest restoration, conservation and sustainable use for the benefit of local populations. The project is located in the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ) buffer zone and aims to achieve sustainable management and restoration of the Cushabatay Basin forests

and adjacent areas in the Cordillera Azul National Park (PNCAZ) buffer zone. The project is consistent with the strategic priorities of ITTO and in particular with SDG 15.2 and 15.3 as well as the Aichi Targets 5 and 15.

Thus, it will contribute to forest and biodiversity restoration in that section of the vast PNCAZ buffer zone and will improve community living standards of the communities in the Cushabatay River basin and adjacent areas in the Cordillera Azul National Park Buffer Zone (PNCAZ). Specifically, it will intend to restore and sustainably manage the forests of the Cushabatay basin and adjacent areas in the Cordillera Azul National Park Buffer Zone (PNCAZ). The project expected outputs will be: i) The main economic stakeholders (timber producers, farmers, investors) align their interests and implement a vision for sustainable forest use and biodiversity; ii) Technical capacity of key stakeholders for forest management and restoration has been strengthened; and iii) Development and implementation of strategies and models for forest restoration and sustainable management.

This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

(6) PD 890/18 Rev.3 (F) Rehabilitation of the Upper Bandama Gazetted Forest in the North of Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of the Local People

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	746,081
ITTO Budget:	US\$	575,833
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	170,248

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

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

Consequently, the community's high demand for fuelwood has resulted in indiscriminate harvesting of this product in gazetted forests. The aim of this project is to rehabilitate the Upper Bandama gazetted forest in an inclusive way by significantly diminishing the demand for fuelwood, building up its construction timber production capacity and incorporating the need for grazing land and permanent watering points for nomad cattle drivers. Finally, the project aims to conduct outreach activities with households about the new energy-saving technologies to reduce their fuelwood and charcoal consumption.

This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK

Period of Approval: October 2020
Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

The project was approved in October 2020 and has been partially financed in June 2022 (US\$121,903.50 from Australia). The project is currently awaiting additional funds for its implementation. If the project secures at least another US\$200,000, the Implementing Agency will be able to start the project with a revised budget.

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

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

(8) PD 905/19 Rev.2 (F) Providing Support for the Sustainable Management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in the Savanna Region in Togo

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	626,760.78
ITTO Budget:	US\$	482,623.68
Government of Togo	US\$	144,137.10

Implementing Agency: AGENCY FOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND USE (*OFFICE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'EXPLOITATION DES FORÊTS—ODEF*)

Period of Approval: Rev.1: Approved in September 2019
Rev.2: Approved in September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The Fosse-aux-Lions gazetted forest was once a superb reserve for fauna and flora. However, as a result of the socio-political unrest that Togo experienced during the 1990s, the gazetted forest, as most of the protected areas, has been invaded and devastated by local people, thereby questioning the non-participatory, unilateral management processes applied by the Forest Administration since the colonial era. Over the decades this has led to significant changes, particularly in relation to the degradation of forest resources, biodiversity, uncontrolled exploitation and worsening impoverishment of local populations.

To reverse this trend, the Agency for Forest Development and Use (Office de Développement et d'Exploitation des Forêts - ODEF) has developed this project proposal which aims at the sustainable management of the Fosse-aux-Lions gazetted forest by identifying and marking out consensus-based boundaries, establishing an operational framework of consultation between the stakeholders and the Forest Administration, promoting income-generating activities (IGAs), providing training to stakeholders in good practices for land use, creating areas for grazing and forage, educating local people in forestry regulations, and promoting the fuelwood sector to contribute to improving the living conditions of the populations concerned.

This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project.

(9) PD 915/21 Rev.2 (F) Strengthening the Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests in Ramsar Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	673 482
ITTO Budget:	US\$	512 402
Ce.Sa.Re.N – NGO	US\$	161 080

Implementing Agency: ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES (CERCLE POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES – Ce.Sa.Re.N NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION)

Collaborating Agency: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING (DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC); BENIN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (AGENCE BÉNINOISE POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT—ABE)

Period of Approval: September 2022

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

In addition to their cultural, ritual and socio-economic functions, Benin's sacred forests (SFs) provide a special refuge and a sanctuary for the local biodiversity, which includes several rare species of animals and plants, some of which are listed in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Sacred forests are an exemplary model of traditional management and conservation of biodiversity. Their protection and conservation are based on traditional beliefs rooted in tradition, the power of traditional authority as well as that of local dignitaries and religious leaders.

Over 500 Sacred Forests (SF) are found in RAMSAR Sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin. Regrettably, most sacred forests are subject to overlogging and uncontrolled utilization resulting in their degradation, which varies between Gazetted Forests. To address this trend, major actions were implemented between April 2017 and March 2020 in 40 SFs through PD 754/14 Rev.3 (F) project titled "Rehabilitation and Sustainable Management of Sacred Forests on RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin" with the support of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). However, the satisfactory outcomes achieved by this project remain fragile and require improvements and consolidation actions as well as the completion of the process for integrating SFs into Benin's Protected Area System. In view of which, this project proposal titled "Strengthening the rehabilitation and sustainable management of sacred forests in RAMSAR sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin" was developed with the aim to: a) implement the developed Management Plans with efficiency; (b) eradicate conflicts between farmers and SFs; and (c) improve the livelihoods of the populations neighboring sacred forests in Benin

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	741,347
ITTO Budget:	US\$	578,185
Government of Colombia –	US\$	107,362
University of Tolima:		
Community Council of the Bajo	US\$	55,800
Calima Black Ethnic Group:		

Implementing Agency: UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA - COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE
BAJO CALIMA BLACK ETHNIC GROUP

Collaborating Agency: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

Period of Approval: September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 24 months

The project was approved in September 2021 and has been partially financed during the ITTC 57 in December 2021 (US\$150,000 from the US). The project is currently awaiting additional funds for its implementation. If the project secures at least another US\$200,000, the Implementing Agency will be able to start the project with a revised budget.

This proposal stems from a recommendation of Project PD 415/06 Rev. 2 (M) "Systematization and Modelling of Economic and Technical Information to Train Professionals Related to the Production, Processing and Marketing of Timber Products", implemented by the University of Tolima under an Agreement with ITTO and the Ministry for the Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) of the Republic of Colombia.

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

(11) PD 921/21 Rev.2 (F) Support for the Conservation and Promotion of Forest Tree Seeds in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	554 322
ITTO Budget:	US\$	447 072
BENIN (DGEFC)	US\$	107 250

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

Collaborating Agency: NATIONAL TIMBER AGENCY (OFFICE NATIONAL DU BOIS—
ONAB)

Period of Approval: September 2022

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The unavailability of forest tree seeds, in particular highly logged natural species, also hinders reforestation and soil conservation efforts. The General Directorate of Water, Forests and Hunting (DGEFC) is responsible for the management of forest resources but lacks any unit for producing seeds displaying strong characteristics. In addition, for the most part, nursery operators collect seeds from uncontrolled origins. As a result, appropriate production cannot be ensured and gene flux dissemination is uncontrolled, which could have serious environmental impacts and need to be addressed. The demand in certified forest tree seeds both at the national and international level is increasing and the poor organization of the forest tree seed industry is

hampering the intensive reforestation process and the development of an improved production system in Benin.

The DGEFC initiated this project to establish a seed production unit for the conservation and promotion of forest tree seeds to address this situation in the long term in Benin. This project aims to improve access (farmers, private plantation operators, local populations) to forest tree seeds and meet reforestation needs as well as the necessity to enhance the production system for various stakeholders.

(12) PD 929/22 Rev.1 (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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget: US\$ 1,911,612

ITTO Budget: US\$ 1,061,040

CNF US\$ 850,572

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL FORESTRY CHAMBER (CNF) /NATIONAL AGRARIAN UNIVERSITY OF LA MOLINA (UNALM)

Collaborating Agency: Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI)
National Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR)
Ministry of the Environment (MINAM)
Associated Nature and Development Consultants (CANDES)
Regional Forest and Wildlife Authority of Madre de Dios
Forest concessions and native communities in the region

Period of Approval: September 2022

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 37 months

This project seeks to silviculturally manage seed trees, to find a procedure that will encourage the production of seeds and the establishment of natural and artificial regeneration, which will lead to the restoration of harvested species populations for the next harvesting cycle by ensuring that these trees reach the desired wood quality and quantity in the areas under forest management.

The results of the project will contribute to the development of a silvicultural system to be applied in the restoration of commercial species populations in areas under forest management plans and operational plans, which will directly support forest concessions and native communities. In addition, the methodology developed may be replicated in other forest regions of the country, thus contributing to national forest development.

PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS

There is one (1) approved pre-project currently under implementation. In this report the pre-projects are grouped into three categories:

- A. Pre-projects under active implementation;
- B. Pre-projects which have financing allocated, but for which the contract or agreement regulating implementation has still not been concluded; and
- C. Pre-projects which still do not have full financing secured.

A. PRE-PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	89,200
ITTO Budget:	US\$	65,000
Benin (CPDRN):	US\$	24,200

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

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

Period of Approval: September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: April 2022 / 10 months

This 10-month pre-project was approved in September 2021 through the electronic approval system and it was partially financed with an amount of US\$65,000 (instead of US\$81,984) during the ITTC-55 in November 2022, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of USA. The pre-project was revised to readjust the implementation costs to the secured amount of US\$65,000 and the revised version was approved through the electronic no-objection process in February 2022. The Pre-project Agreement had been signed by all parties in March 2022, and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in April 2022.

The pre-project development objective is to contribute to the sustainable management of private forests in Benin to improve the living conditions of local populations. The specific objective of this pre-project is to collect data with a view to developing a capacity-building project for private and community tree farmers in southern Benin. The main expected outputs of this pre-project are: (i) baseline information on private and community plantations is available; (ii) a capacity-building project for private and community tree farmers in southern Benin is developed and submitted to the ITTO.

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

- A multidisciplinary team, supported by a consultant in inventory study of private and community plantations and another consultant in socio-economic study, had been put in place for the implementation of this pre-project, with the participation of local stakeholders,
- A series of consultations had been held to promote local ownership of actions in order to strengthen private forest plantations management. Collected data will be used to analyze the conditions under which private forest plantations can be better managed.
- Field visits and exchanges with stakeholders had taken place with the aim of drawing up the list of eligible private forest plantations to subject to be covered during the future project to be derived from the implementation of this project.

The development of a capacity-building project for private and community tree farmers in southern Benin will be based on the information and data gathered by the abovementioned consultants. The draft project proposal, developed through the implementation of his pre-project will be subject to review by relevant stakeholders during a technical workshop to be held by the end of the pre-project implementation.

B. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

None.

C. PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	114,704
ITTO Budget:	US\$	91,504
Benin (DGEFC):	US\$	23,200

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

Collaborating Agency: NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE RESERVES (*CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF*)

Period of Approval: September 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 10 months

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

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

BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME (BWP)-BASED ACTIVITIES

(1) PP-A/56-341-A Support for Women's Groups with the Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, Togo – Phase 2

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	103,331
ITTO Budget:	US\$	89,581
Soka Gakkai (SG):	US\$	89,581
REFACOF:	US\$	13,750

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

Starting Date and Duration: April 2022 / 12 months

This 12-month BWP Activity is funded as part of the Third Programme Line (PL3) titled "Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with some appropriate provisions of

Decision 8(LV) calling upon the ITTO Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking new funding avenues and partners for the funding of ITTO's work. This second phase of the BWP Activity was fully funded by Soka Gakkai (SG), in January 2022, after a successful consultation process between ITTO and SG, based on the concept note and profile-document prepared by the implementing agency (REFACOF) in compliance with the framework and requirements of the financial donor (SG). The Memorandum of understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this second phase of the BWP Activity has been duly signed process by all parties (Government of Togo, REFACOF-Togo, Implementing Agency and ITTO Secretariat) in March 2022, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in April 2022.

The second phase of this BWP Activity aims at consolidating and sustaining the support to women's groups in two of Togo's poorest Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, where forest restoration and enrichment planting will take place on identified plots made available by the chieftaincy of two villages (Agouegan village of Lacs Prefecture and Pagala-gare village of Blitta Prefecture). It specifically intends to contribute to food security, meeting their needs in fuel energy and to generate income from wood and non-wood forests products, including food crops derived from agroforestry activities, while empowering women groups involved in the implementation of the second phase of this BWP Activity.

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

- The consultation and sensitization campaigns have been initiated by REFACOF-Togo, as the Executing Agency, in order to ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders (women's groups, traditional chieftaincies, national and local forestry administration, ODEF, etc.), including those involved in the implementation of the previous phase of the BWP Activity,
- Meetings with women groups have been initiated for the selection of tree species to be used for the forest landscape restoration activities of new sites in both target prefectures (Blitta and Lacs), as well as the food crops to be associated with trees in agroforestry plantations,
- Nurseries for seedlings production, used during the implementation of the previous phase, have been subject to special maintenance by women's groups to involved as both beneficiaries and implementing actors.

The members of women groups, which are both beneficiaries and implementing actors, have been well organized during the implementation of the previous phase of this BWP Activity. They have been able to use the skills acquired, particularly in the techniques of seedling production, reforestation, and agroforestry, which will be useful for the smooth implementation of the Phase 2 of the BWP Activity.

(2) PP-A/56-342-A Strengthening SFM Standards and Timber Legality Framework in Myanmar

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	518,790
ITTO Budget:		US\$	378,930
Japan:	US\$	378,930	
MFCC (in-kind):		US\$	139,860

Implementing Agency: Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)

Starting Date and Duration: January 2021 / 24 months

The activity agreement was signed on 7 January 2021 by ITTO and Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) to support development of practical solutions to providing assurances of sustainability and legality, including developing/implementing sustainable forest management plans and developing/implementing sustainable supply chains under the ITTO programme on legal and sustainable supply chains (LSSC) for tropical wood and forest products.

The activity's objective is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable forest management in Myanmar through strengthening national certification systems of forest management and chain of custody as well as a timber legality verification system. It will address the challenges Myanmar faces with market access for timber and focus on the continued improvement of Myanmar Forest Certification System (MFCS), and Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS) and their efficient and effective implementation. Significant capacity building

interventions, including the application of QR codes for log tracking, will be implemented to develop the robustness of the mechanisms and infrastructures that underpin Myanmar's timber certification systems. The development of standards and systems will be facilitated with extensive stakeholder consultation, and with international best practice processes serving to foster an environment of mutual trust and ownership amongst forestry stakeholders.

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

- The National Standards Council approved “Myanmar Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification Standard (2020)” as Myanmar National Standard (MMS 32:2022 Myanmar Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification) on 16th May 2022 to facilitate the development of SFM certification.
- The revised MTLAS (draft version) is now subject to the Public Consultation after MFCC approval on 28th June 2022. Expert round table meetings to update and fill gaps in the MTLAS have discussed the possibility of independent third-party monitoring in the MTLAS assessment.
- Consultations and reviews are being carried out for the development of a digitalized timber tracking system. A manufacture has been engaged to develop a software from log sawing to export.
- MFCC has been working and collaborating with representatives from PEFC International, PEFC Southeast Asia and regular meetings have been held to ensure PEFC's ongoing support for current project activities as well as synergies between project partners. In addition, MFCC participated in many webinars, including the PEFC Standard and Tools, and Expanding Group Certification through collaboration amongst the PEFC alliance.

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