



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Distr.
GENERAL

CRF(LVI)/2
13 October 2022

Original: ENGLISH

FIFTY-SIXTH SESSION
7-11 November 2022
Yokohama, Japan (Hybrid Session)

REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS

IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

**REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

(A) COMPLETED PROJECTS

(1) PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) Encouraging Customary Landowners in the Lowlands of Central Province (PNG) to Reforest Their Grasslands with High Value Trees

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	828,576
ITTO Budget:		US\$	644,814
Government of Japan:	US\$	644,814	
Government of PNG:		US\$	183,762

Implementing Agency: Papua New Guinea Forest Authority

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XLV, Nov.2009, Yokohama, Japan

Starting Date and Duration: January 2012 / Planned: 36 months Actual: 123 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension until 31 December 2015 (NOLF.15-0004)
Second extension until 31 December 2016 (NOLF.16-0067)
Third extension until 31 January 2018 (NOLF.17-0029)
Fourth extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18-0085)
Fifth extension until 30 October 2020 (NOLF.20-0021)
Sixth extension until 31 March 2022 (NOLF.21-0093)

I. Introduction

This project was approved and financed in November 2009. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was finalized in May 2010. After completing necessary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the Implementing Agency started the implementation of project activities in January 2012. However, the implementation of the project had been significantly delayed due to the weakness of the project management team and three changes of the national project coordinator. The delay in the submission of the financial audit reports for financial years 2018, 2019 and 2020 was resolved in December 2021. The project duration was extended until the end of 31 March 2022 after the release of the final installment in January 2022. Submission of the project completion report in July 2022 and the final audit report in early October 2022 is considered for this project to be documented for the completion procedures.

II. Project Objective

The project aimed to create a model reforestation framework - comprising awareness, training and support services - that encourages customary landowners in the lowlands of Central Province to reforest their grasslands with high value trees. Project activities focused on building the capacity of 3 national institutions to deliver cost-effective and sustainable services through strengthening operational systems, physical resources and human resources; leading to the establishment of 3 model reforestation enterprises.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

OUTPUT 1: A reforestation awareness program is in operation for landowners and the wider community

- Undertaken reforestation awareness with 3 target communities in Rigo and Kairuku-Hiri Districts through the PNG Forest Authority's ongoing reforestation program (Secure Land and Plant Trees) using the Landowner Awareness KIT (LAK).
- Established a forestry education service at the 3 community schools using the Forest Learners Kit (FLK) which is managed by Pacific Island Projects (PIP). The FLK was submitted to the National Department of Education (NDoE)'s Quality Assurance Committee and Board of Studies for approval to be used as teaching aids in all PNG schools (i.e. from Prep to Grade 12).
- Five model reforestation enterprises have been established in Rigo District to effectively promote appropriate land groups, business arrangements and production systems to the wider community.

OUTPUT 2: A business training and support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises

- Established a training program under the Small & Medium Enterprise Corporation (SMEC)'s Start Your Business for local entrepreneurs at 3 model sites in Rigo and Kairuku-Hiri Districts; leading to more than 40 business enterprise plans and the formation of the Girabu Farmers' Cooperative and Action Plan.
- Provided a business information service for reforestation entrepreneurs at the 3 model community schools in Rigo and Kairuku-Hiri Districts using the Tree Growers Tool Kit (TGTK) which is managed by Pacific Island Projects (PIP) as a freely available, one-stop source of information for farmers and field workers.

OUTPUT 3: An agroforestry training and support package is in operation for small-scale reforestation enterprises

- Rolled-out the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)'s farmer training program at Gomore village in Rigo District. Field workers from NARI and NFS have also assisted 4 model land groups in Rigo District to select the most appropriate production systems for their local context. A Farmers' Cooperative was formed at Girabu village to coordinate the production and marketing of agricultural crops.
- Established an agroforestry information service for reforestation entrepreneurs at selected community schools. Seven new pamphlets (1 tree selector and 6 tree factsheets) were developed to assist landowners choose, grow and make money from 6 high-value trees, including teak, that grow well in the Central Province lowlands.

OUTPUT 4: A distribution system is in operation providing agroforestry stock & materials for model reforestation enterprises

- Installed a water irrigation system at the Kuriva Forestry Station nursery, which is capable of supplying over 20,000 teak stumps per year from the PNGFA's Clonal Orchards at Mt. Lawes & Kuriva. The Forest Research Institute in Lae has also established a clonal seed orchard comprising 208 clonal ramets at the Rocky Creek site at Kuriva.
- Established 2 local distribution centres at Gomore and Girabu in Rigo District that supply seedlings for high value trees and food crops that grow well in the Central Province lowlands, with reference to the 6 tree factsheets that assist with site selection, seed collection, nursery establishment, planting-out and maintenance. The teak woodlots in Rigo District will also be able to supply quality seeds to the 2-local distribution centres in Rigo District as a regular source of income for the landowners.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project has been able to create a reforestation framework that will continue to be managed by project partners using the tools and techniques that were tested during project implementation. The project intends the model reforestation framework to expand over time both within and beyond Central Province, leading to the gradual rehabilitation of under-utilized grasslands across PNG. It has contributed to the expansion of long-term social, environmental and economic benefits for landowners in the Central Province lowlands through the development of reforestation enterprises to promote an appropriate set of business models and production systems. Teak (*Tectona grandis*) was a focal species promoted through a range of model business arrangements and production systems.

As the PNGFA is increasingly focusing on reforestation as a means of maintaining a permanent forest estate that supplies existing and new forest industries, the outcomes of the project will contribute substantially to its national reforestation programme with the goal of planting 800,000 hectares of trees for commercial and community benefit purposes by 2050.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

In terms of achieving the objectives of the project and implementing the project activities, the key lessons can be summarized as follows:

- The project performance was slow and lacked continuity, due to a series of internal and external administrative problems. For the efficient implementation of the project, project implementation

constraints should be clearly highlighted in regular progress reports and frequent review meetings are essential and internal administrative issues should be promptly dealt with by project management.

- Local extension centres (e.g. schools and community based organisations) can alleviate the costs of delivering and sustaining rural extension services. The growing network of community outreach centres and schools will provide ongoing information services for land groups and the community at large.
- Factors that restrict the identification and establishment of model sites include: (i) landownership disputes with other land groups; (ii) differences of opinion within land groups (e.g. land-use priorities); and (iii) limited follow-up activities that encourage landowners to plant trees on their land.

The Project's sustainability strategy focused on building the capacity of these national institutions to deliver cost-effective and sustainable services through strengthening operational systems, physical resources, and human resources. The PNGFA is expected to replicate the model approach in other Districts and Provinces in collaboration with its partners, including:

- The National Forest Service (NFS) Afforestation & Reforestation Directorate will continue to raise landowner awareness and to provide (agro) forestry training and support services for farmers and field workers under its national reforestation program (Secure Land & Plant Trees).
- The NFS Acquisition Branch will continue to assist land groups to form ILGs using the recommended step-by-step approach and the SMEC Business Advisory & Capacity Building Division will continue to support the development of SME in PNG.
- The NFS Forest Research Institute will continue to develop clonal orchards and seed production units with support from its research and development partners. The NFS Kuriva Forestry Station will continue to assist motivated land groups to establish local distribution centres that supply quality seedlings for high value trees and food crops that suit the local context with support from NARI (e.g. seed and seedlings for food crops). Woodlots established in the project areas will provide a local source of quality seeds for local distribution centres in the future.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well as Financial Audit Reports, the Committee may wish to declare the Project PD 552/09 Rev.1 (F) as completed, subject to the satisfactory completion of the final audit report from January to March 2022. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon request, by the Secretariat.

(2) **PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable, Mixed and Pure Forest Plantation Development in the Transitional Zone of Ghana's Biakoye District Assembly, Employing Poverty Reduction Strategies**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	324,088
ITTO Budget:		US\$	245,272
Government of Japan:	US\$	245,272	
Government of Ghana:		US\$	78,816

Implementing Agency: PICODEV-Ghana

Period of Approval: April 2012

Starting Date and Duration: May 2013 / Planned: 24 months & Actual: 34 months

I. Introduction

The 24-month project was approved under Spring 2012 Project Cycle through the electronic time-bound approval system, but it was fully funded during the 48th ITTC Session in November 2012, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan. The Project Agreement had been signed by the parties in January 2013. The project initiated its implementation in May 2013 following the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds. However, as an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in

March 2016, the project operation period had lasted 34 months instead of 24 initially designed by the implementing agency (PICODEV-Ghana).

The ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, but the Final Financial Audit Report (FAR) was pending since March 2016. After several reminders, from 2016 to 2021, a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report was submitted in October 2021, and it was reviewed by the Division of Operations and considered as acceptable for this project to be documented for the completion and closure procedures. However, it was submitted beyond the deadline for the finalization of Committee documents for the 55th CRF Session.

II. Project Objective

The project aimed at contributing to the sustained socio-economic development and environmental protection in the Biakoye area in Ghana's Volta Region, through the restoration of forest degraded lands with precious indigenous timber species and exotic timber species, with the involvement of local communities. It specifically intended to initiate a participatory poverty alleviation approach (innovative value adding cassava processing and sale) through a sustainable forest enrichment and plantation development using tropical timber species mixed with exotic species.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

In order to ensure a participatory implementation of the project, the project implementing team and stakeholders had discussed and adopted a multi-dimensional project strategy that had contributed to achieving maximum results, including important aspects on the promotion of rural private timber cultivation techniques in terms of land preparation, seedlings procurement and seedlings production, seedlings planting, as well as overall forest plantations maintenance. The main goal was to ensure active (cross-segment) involvement relevant stakeholders in decision-making, during the project implementation, leading to greater commitment of local communities, as well as to interactive operations, outputs, and outcomes. The main project achievements and outputs are described here below.

The main project achievements, in relation to the expected outputs and associated activities, can be summarized as follows:

- One thousand and two hundred (1,200) young women and young men of the six communities (Ahenkro, Tayi, Ntunda, Tepo, Bumbula and Akposo-Kabo villages) had successfully established six mixed forest plantations of 50 acres each, as demonstration plots, with the following indigenous tree species: *Emire, Ofram, Dodowa, Sofo, Onyina, Papao, Wawa, and West African Mahogany*;
- One thousand and two hundred (1,200) young women and young men of the six communities had established six (6) demonstration plots of 50 acres each, with the following exotic tree species: *Teak* (for timber and poles) and *Cassia* (for fuel-wood);
- One thousand and two hundred (1,200) youth members of six local communities involved in the project implementation (that is, young women and men) had been organized in an association for the management of the cassava processing machine. The aim had been to ensure added value to raw cassava, produced in agroforestry plantations combining cassava and other crops with the abovementioned tree species;
- These young women and men were also trained on reforestation skills, including seeds collection and treatment, nursery establishment and management, seedlings transplanting and maintenance, forest plantation management, and forest plantation protection (bush fire prevention).

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

This multi-dimensional project consisted of the cultivation of indigenous like *Emire, Ofram, Dodowa, Sofo, Onyina, Papao, Wawa, and West African Mahogany* species, as well as exotic tree species like *Teak* and *Cassia*, in combination with cassava and other crops selected by local communities (mainly maize, pepper, marantaceae and yam). These mixed forest plantations were established by selected local communities using the modified taungya agroforestry system.

The implementation of this project had led to some changes of attitude in right direction as summarized here below:

- The target youth stakeholders had effectively known how to select deforested local sites, known how to prepare the land for professional reforestation, known how to nurse and plant selected seedlings, known how to maintain them, as well as known how to process and package cassava produce into

profitable value-added products of different kinds. These skills had contributed to empower these young women and men, involved in the project implementation, on forestry issues correlated to the improvement of their livelihoods;

- The project intervention had sharpened the awareness and behaviour of young women and men with respect to forestry issues, enabling them to continue being part of the solution regarding forest rehabilitation actions and activities in the Biakoye District, Volta Region, Ghana.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The regular and frequent consultation process among stakeholders had been the main lesson learned on the successful implementation of this project. The project strategies were well conceived and well elaborated to suit the multi-dimensional nature of the project and has contributed immensely to ensure the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including target area young women and men, in the project implementation. The capacities of the target beneficiaries had been developed and allowed them to fully take their responsibility in the project implementation.

The main sustainability arrangement could be the commitment of the Ghana Forestry Commission (at the Biakoye District level) to continue providing further technical support, after the project completion, to the young women and men who were involved in the establishment of forest plantations and rehabilitated natural forests in Biakoye District, Volta Region, Ghana. The executing agency (PICODEV) had been preparing, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, a new project proposal, for submission to the ITTO project cycle in 2017. The new project proposal should contribute to consolidating of the main achievements of the project PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F). However, the new project proposal was not submitted due to the delay in complying with the pre-requisite condition in relation to the receipt of an acceptable and satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, by the ITTO Secretariat, for the completion and closure procedures of the project PD653/12 Rev.1 (F).

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, as well a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the Project PD 653/12 Rev.1 (F) as completed. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

(3) **PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F) Community Based Restoration and Sustainable Management of Vulnerable Forests of the Rewa Delta, Viti Levu, Fiji**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	387,511
ITTO Budget:		US\$	310,576
Government of Japan:	US\$	310,576	
Government of Fiji		US\$	76,935

Implementing Agency: Department of Forest, Ministry of Fisheries and Forest, Republic of Fiji

Period of Approval: Autumn 2013

Starting Date and Duration: October 2015 / Planned: 36 months Actual: 76 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First Extension until 30 September 2019 (NOLF.18 -0084)
Second Extension until 31 December 2020 (NOLF.20-0017)
Third Extension until 31 December 2021 (NOLF.21-0066)
Forth Extension until 30 April 2022 (NOLF.22-0010)

I. Introduction

This project was approved in Autumn 2013 and its financing was made at ITTC 49 in November 2013. The project agreement regulating project implementation was finalized in June 2015. After concluding all administrative arrangements, the project became operational in October 2015. During the implementation of the project, it has faced several challenges including lack of engagement and commitment of relevant

stakeholders, the project sites severely affected by Tropical Cyclone Winston in late February 2016 and the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on such challenges, the project duration extension was granted until end of December 2021. The submission of the project completion report and the final audit report in July 2022 is considered for this project to be documented for the completion and closure procedures.

II. Project Objective

This project aimed to contribute to the restoration and sustainable management of degraded coastal and mangrove wetlands in the Rewa Delta (35,238 ha), Fiji, while improving the livelihoods of local communities in the area. Specifically, the project proposed: restoration and management of at least 3,381 hectares as demonstration site; training of 17 communities involved in awareness creation on the importance of wetlands; and development of alternative livelihood options to reduce overdependence on the coastal and mangrove wetland vegetation.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Output 1. Local communities trained and empowered to implement activities linking livelihoods improvement to reduce overdependence on coastal and mangrove wetland resources

- Six Communities (Waicoka, Naivakacau, Nasilai, Natila, Narocake and Muanaira) trained on alternative livelihood options, including village nurseries and tree planting, cash cropping & home gardening, sewing machine training, piggery farming in Nasilai village and apiculture/bee farming in Muanaira village.
- Established media programs for public education on the importance of coastal and mangrove wetlands.

Output 2. Degraded and deforested coastal mangrove wetlands are rehabilitated through afforestation and reforestation using appropriate native species

- Conducted 6 training workshops in collaboration with Silviculture Research and Extension Division. More than 200 community members participated
- Mixed species planting was the mode of rehabilitation: Restored 137.25 hectares (457,450 mangrove seedlings) and restored 13.15 hectares (5,580 seedlings of native, fruit and coastal trees)
- 241 households from the six communities' benefit from increasing marine life in the restored mangrove areas: fish, crabs and mud lobsters.

Output 3. Maintain and enhance traditional knowledge and skills that will enable communities to value and sustain resource utilization

- Traditional knowledge and skills for harvesting and preservation of key food sources found in mangrove ecosystems documented. These include traditional cultural practices of making tapa cloth & mat weaving; traditional method of catching crabs and mud lobsters; and traditional custom of "taboo" (traditional protected area).
- Produced a video of the project that portrays the change in perception of members in the six communities in the management of coastal and wetland mangrove systems in the Rewa Delta.

Output 4. Framework to support existing mangrove policy and legislation

- Organized a series of consultative workshops to identify levels of coordination, collaboration and networking among key institutions – and collate key issues on coastal and mangrove wetlands.
- Communities are aware of the importance of protecting this vulnerable mangrove forest and village headmen in the Rewa Delta are leading the monitoring and surveillance for illegal removal of mangroves for fuel wood.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The implementation of the project has provided benefits to the primary beneficiaries and stakeholders involved. Through the developed mechanism of "sustainable management of vulnerable forests", mangrove users in Tailevu and Rewa Province are now aware of their mangrove forests as their assets and need to maintain their mangrove ecosystems for higher productivity and to ensure sustainability. The trainings carried out for the villagers had equipped the six communities with the necessary skills for mangrove forest management, sustaining harvesting and value-added utilization of alternative livelihood products.

The achievement of project objectives has a significant impact on the perceptions of the public and other institutions, both local and international, that rally support to strive for a sustainable mangrove forest ecosystem in Fiji. The capacity of government authorities to develop policies and regulations on sustainable mangrove rehabilitation and conservation has been improved. The primary beneficiaries and stakeholders involved will continue to benefit from the project's outputs and will follow up the framework and the platform that has been developed through the community-based restoration and sustainable management of vulnerable mangrove forests of the Rewa Delta.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

Lessons learned from the implementation of the project and especially for the restoration, management and utilization of mangrove resources in Fiji include:

- Community involvement and full participation of community members are vital to the success of mangrove conservation and restoration of degraded wetland areas. The Rewa delta communities have been guardians of the mangrove forests and this role cannot be taken for granted. This stewardship role needs to be formalized for the application to be effective.
- Community members have their own priorities and responsibilities. Often these will not match the implementation requirements of the project plan. Project staff have to arrange suitable schedules that community members can take advantage of.
- Income generation is important to increase support and participation for the successful implementation of any project and divert pressure from the use of resources.
- Building relationships based on trust with the donor, ITTO, and valued stakeholders helps build mutual understanding with the executing agency through the submission of comprehensive progress reports and audit reports.

The sustainability of restored mangrove ecosystems and other livelihood project activities will be improved continuously after project completion as follows:

- The framework of the Community Mangrove Guideline for the sustainable management of mangrove areas will be implemented with community empowerment programmes involving all key stakeholders at each stage of policy implementation.
- Government ministries commit to using the capital's facilities and resources to continuously facilitate the participation of all communities in the Province of Rewa and Tailevu.
- An existing program within the i-Taukei Affairs Board called the Yaubula Management Support Teams will spearhead community management and monitoring of mangrove resources. In addition, existing village Development program will also be strengthened through better coordination and monitoring of wetland management and conservation.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well as Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the Project PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F) as completed. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon request, by the Secretariat.

(4) **PD 740/14 Rev.2 (F) Sustainable Forest Management through REDD+ Mechanisms in Kampong Thom Province (Cambodia)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	561,022
ITTO Budget:		US\$	484,792
Government of Japan:	US\$	484,792	
Government of Cambodia		US\$	76,230

Implementing Agency: Forest Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Cambodia

Period of Approval: Autumn 2014

Starting Date and Duration:	September 2015 / Planned: 36 months Actual: 75 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 30 April 2020 (NOLF.20 -0001) Second Extension until 30 April 2021 (NOLF.20-0051) Third Extension until 31 December 2021 (NOLF.21-0039)

I. Introduction

This project was approved under Autumn 2014 Project Cycle and financed at ITTC 50 in November 2014. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in March 2015. A project launching ceremony was held on 23 July 2015 with the participation of key REDD+ actors in the country. After completing the administrative arrangements, the project became operational in September 2015. The project received the first extension until the end of April 2020. Due to the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country since April 2020, the project has been further extended until the end of 2021. Since the project completion report and the final audit report were submitted in April 2022, this project is documented for its completion and closure procedures.

II. Project Objective

The project intended to contribute to the sustainable management of forest resources in Kampong Thom province through the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation. Its specific objective aimed to establish the institutionalization of REDD+ activities to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province. The project addressed the key problem of the limited institutional capacity for promoting REDD+ activities to support sustainable forest management in Kampong Thom province.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Output 1: Stakeholder understanding and knowledge of REDD+ improved

- Published a review report in English and Khmer summarizing the lessons learned from the implementation of on-going REDD+ interventions in Cambodia
- Organized REDD+ awareness raising events for stakeholders at the provincial level and on-site for 3 target CFs with the participation of 237 participants.
- Published a report on the establishment of benefit sharing mechanisms in Cambodia including a sustainable financing strategy.

Output 2: Research program on REDD+ in the Tomring Forest in Kampong Thom province developed and implemented

- Develop a default provincial Reference Emission Level (REL) and an adjusted provincial REL for Kampong Thom province.
- Identified and carried out activities to reduce carbon emissions and enhance community livelihoods, especially in deforestation and degradation hotspots. These include training on SMART patrolling and using GPS for members of the community forestry management committee; distribution of 2,150 cooking stoves (30% savings compared to a regular cook stove) to targeted community forestry members; as well as training in raising chickens, and best practices of agriculture pesticides and fertilization in the cultivation of casava.

Output 3: REDD+ guidelines and training programs strengthened for effective design and implementation of REDD+ activities.

- Increased the capacity of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) at the Forestry Administration Cantonment and Community Forest levels through a series of training courses. Carried out a series of training courses on the effective design and implementation of carbon forestry (e.g. forest inventory measurement, use of GIS and Drone for data collection)
- Prepared a report to facilitate the design, implementation and monitoring of safeguards for local communities and the environment.

Several technical reports and project leaflets have been published in English and Khmer. Policy briefs highlighting the key findings of the four technical reports have been published as follows:

- Assessment of existing benefit-sharing mechanisms in forestry and REDD+ projects for an effective national REDD+ incentive allocation mechanism in Cambodia
- Design, implement and monitor REDD+ safeguards in Kampong Thom Province
- Development of a sustainable financing strategy for REDD+ in Cambodia
- Development of default values and adjustment of forest reference emission levels in Kampong Thom province

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project has contributed to strengthening the capacity of government staff at the national and local levels to advance the monitoring of sustainable forest management through intensive capacity building programs. This project has also assisted in the development of land use planning in community forestry that ensures minimizing the impact of forest land conflicts and fostering good governance to improve accountability and transparency of decision-making process for effective community forestry. It has also strengthened the leadership and motivation of participating local communities in forest management, and coordination with local authorities with increased opportunities for sustainable livelihoods from applied agroforestry and intensive farming practices.

The results of the project have contributed to the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy phase II, 2022-2026, which emphasizes the development and implementation of enabling policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. The land use planning and forest survey of the project sites have been helpful in reviewing the achievement of the national target of maintaining 60% forest cover. The project's achievements will help Cambodia actively participate in international efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while pursuing the national goals for society and the environment.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The project has been designed with appropriate outputs which were accomplished under the specific objective. Lessons learned from project identification, design and implementation include:

- The active participation of key stakeholders from the national level to the local level with their interest in project implementation has led to the productive results of the project. Close partners of the project include the Embassy of Japan in Cambodia and JICA-Cambodia in addition to the line departments under FA/MAFF and the Kampong Thom Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Department
- The Project Technical Committee and Project Steering Committee has been instrumental as a platform for stakeholders to regularly provide advice and input to the project.
- A clear institutional framework is essential for the smooth arrangements of the relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the project and the achievement of the planned outputs.

The Implementing Agency's efforts will continue to ensure the extended use of project results to strengthen the monitoring of sustainable forest management through REDD+:

- Local forest authorities will intensify regular monitoring of the demonstration sites to update the status of deforestation and forest degradation.
- There is strong collaboration at the project site between local authorities, CFMC, demonstration farmers, as they have recognized the need for the widespread use of the project's results.
- The public forum will continue to encourage active support from local communities and organizations.
- Additional funds will be sought to complement the sustainability plan to expand REDD+ mechanisms and provide more training programs after project completion.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well as Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the Project 740/14 Rev.2 (F) as completed. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon request, by the Secretariat.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	358,180
ITTO Budget:		US\$	250,000
CBD:	US\$	100,000	
Government of USA:	US\$	150,000	
FCG		US\$	108,180

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: June 2018/40 months

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

I. Introduction

This project completed all activities in mid-2021. However, submission of the final report and final audit (expected to be submitted by September 2021 in accordance with the project agreement and agreed extension) was delayed beyond the time of finalization of Committee documents for the 55th CRF session due to several members of the project team being directly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Satisfactory completion and audit reports were subsequently received in early 2022; therefore, this project is to be considered under the Committee's "Completed Projects" agenda item at this session.

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

Guatemala has a forest cover (2010) of 3,722,595 hectares, which accounts for 34% of the national territory. In 2006 the country's forest cover was estimated at 3,868,708 ha; these figures represent a net loss of 146,112 hectares of forest, which is equivalent to a net deforestation rate of 1.0% annually at the national level (with respect to existing forests in 2006). This situation has become particularly crucial as Guatemala has been identified as one of the world's most vulnerable countries to extreme climatic events and other adverse climatic conditions, adding to the problems of loss of biodiversity and reduction of forest goods and services.

Over the last two decades, Guatemala has promoted policy instruments for forest conservation, management and reforestation through the Forest Incentives Programme (PINFOR) and the Forest Incentives Programme for Small Forestry and Agroforestry Landholders (PINPEP), developing regulatory, technical and planning tools to facilitate their implementation. However, despite the progress made in the administration and sustainable use of forest resources in the country, none of these policy instruments has specifically addressed the issue of forest landscape restoration.

The Forest Landscape Restoration Board has developed a Forest Restoration Map, where a total of 3,989,465 hectares has been identified as a potential area for restoration, which has been divided into four categories: a) protected areas; b) riparian areas; c) mangrove forest areas; and d) areas suitable for forestry.

This project undertook forest landscape restoration actions in pilot restoration sites established in accordance with the above map and "ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests", focused on 4 strategic forest ecosystems that have been prioritized by the National Forest Institute (INAB) and the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) - cloud forests, dry forests, pine-oak forests and mangrove forests.

II. Project Objective

The project's development objective is to "reduce forest degradation and improve the restoration of forest ecosystems in Guatemala". Its specific objective is to "improve forest landscape restoration actions through the implementation of a forest restoration mechanism based on ITTO guidelines with the broad participation of key stakeholders in prioritized strategic ecosystems".

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The executing agency made good progress on project implementation in 2020-21 despite Covid-related delays. Work was completed on restoration activities in the 4 pilot sites in collaboration with local stakeholders. A national adaptation of ITTO's guidelines for the restoration of natural tropical forests was completed and underwent review in a series of regional workshops.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project achieved all its intended outcomes despite some difficulties in undertaking field activities on schedule due to Covid. The four pilot sites were successfully restored and the local communities living near these pilot sites trained in forest landscape restoration as laid out in the ITTO Guidelines.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The main lesson learnt during the project was the importance of engaging with local communities and stakeholders to ensure the success of forest landscape restoration activities. Continuing government support to the communities involved in the project will be required to assist them to manage and market products from the restored forests; once revenues from marketed products start to accrue to local communities, restoration activities will be sustained into the future.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The project achieved all its objectives and provided an excellent example of how to apply ITTO's guidelines for the restoration of natural tropical forests at an operational level. All reporting requirements were satisfactorily complied with, including the final audit of project funds provided by ITTO. The final project report (Spanish only) is available on request to the Secretariat. A completion report on the project was submitted to and accepted by CBD in early 2022 under ITTO's contract with that body to provide partial funding for this project. The Committee may therefore wish to declare this project complete.

(6) **PD 777/15 Rev.3 (F) Accelerating the Restoration of Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) Functions through Proper Management of Landscapes Involving Local Stakeholders (Indonesia)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	643,616
ITTO Budget:		US\$	515,590
Government of Japan:	US\$	515,590	
Government of Indonesia:		US\$	128,026

Implementing Agency: Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park Authority (GGPNP), Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF)

Period of Approval:	Rev.1 approved in October 2015 Rev.2 approved in April 2016. Rev.3 approved in March 2017
Starting Date and Duration:	August 2018 / Planned: 36 months Actual: 42 months
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 28 February 2022 (NOLF.21-0061)

I. Introduction

This project was approved in the Autumn 2015 Project Cycle and financing was made in April 2016. The project agreement for regulating project implementation was finalized in January 2018 after ITTO suspension period of payments to all projects from June to December 2016. After completion of the required administrative arrangements for the implementation of the project, the project became operational in August 2018. Due to the delay in the implementation of some project activities resulting from the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was extended until the end of February 2022. Since the project completion report and the final audit report was submitted in May 2022, this project is documented for its completion and closure procedures.

II. Project Objective

The project aimed to contribute to restoring the conservation and development functions of the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve (CBR) in West Java province of Indonesia. The CBR, which covers a total area of approximately 114,779 hectares, is one of the most important biosphere reserves of Indonesia mainly due to its rich and unique biodiversity. It is also a well-known tourist destination due to its relatively good accessibility and a vital source of water for the life of some thirty million people residing in the capital city of Jakarta and other smaller cities, as well as municipalities located around the reserve. Its specific objective was to improve the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems in the CBR through the implementation of the Integrated Strategic Management Plan which has been prepared for the CBR.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Output 1: Threat on biodiversity in the core area significantly reduced

- Enrichment planting carried out on 7 ha; Collaboratively identified a win-win solution and jointly rehabilitated degraded lands with local communities.
- The monitoring system of biodiversity and ecosystems has been strengthened with the completion of standard operation procedures and the purchase of monitoring equipment and tools for Java Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Java Hawk Eagle (*Nisaetus bartelsi*), Java Gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*), and Herpeto Fauna.

Output 2: Land use best practices in CBR buffer and transition zones demonstrated and promoted

- Well documented actual land use practices in the buffer and transition zones. Nine livelihood activities have been collaboratively developed and shown to be well managed by the forest farmer groups. A total of 182 leaders and members of LFGs trained in skills for 4 types of livelihood businesses by 9 different LFGs.
- A total of 15 dialogues were organized to raise the awareness of conservation and sustainable development. The dialogues include facilitation of branding on the CBR product to get a brand certificate from the CBR Forum. This branding activity has been implemented in 3 districts of Cianjur, Sukabumi and Bogor, in collaboration with local organizations, academy institutions and the private sector and with the support of the Indonesian UNESCO MAB national committee.

Output 3: Institutional arrangements for CBR management enhanced

- A CBR Coordination and Communication Forum was formed in one district despite the three district plan due to financial constraints. A workshop was organized with the local governments of Cianjur, Sukabumi and Bogor, as well as the provincial government to improve the monitoring of CBR management.
- The CBR website has been updated with news about projects/activities and other information/materials. The project website (www.itto-cbr.id) has been synchronized with the GGNP

website. Social media for the project includes Facebook (FB) at <https://www.facebook.com/itto.c.reserve> and Instagram (IG) at https://www.instagram.com/cibodas_biosphere.reserve/.

- The project team participated in a number of national and international virtual events, including UNESCO High Level Political Forum (HLPF) "Coping with Environmental Challenges: Climate and Biodiversity Action in UNESCO Sites".

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project has improved the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems of the Cibodas Biosphere Reserve in West Java province of Indonesia through reducing the threat to biodiversity in the core area, and promoting of the best land use practices in the buffer and transition zones. The commitments of the participating local communities have been substantially enhanced towards sustainable management of the CBR, recognizing that its landscapes are the sites for biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. Local private companies are involved in business development with a CBR brand.

The Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park Authority has gained substantial benefits from the project in the form of generated information, increased awareness of local stakeholders on conservation and sustainable development, increased support of local stakeholders in the management of the national park. A CBR Coordination and Communication Forum will enhance the cooperative framework of local stakeholders for the sustainable management of CBR landscapes.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The lessons learned from the implementation of the project include:

- The project's implementation strategy was solid in realizing the objectives of the project with the clear specification of the key problem to be addressed, which facilitated the construction of relevant and effective key elements of the project.
- To minimize deviation between planned and realized objectives of the project, detailed operational plans were essential with clearly defined tasks and responsibilities of the PMU
- Some project achievement indicators were weakly defined in the initial stage, but they were redefined during the operational stage to ensure systematic measurement of achievements.
- Constant and effective communication and consultation between the Executing Agency and the local governments hosting the project avoided unnecessary operational and institutional problems and fostered collaboration among key stakeholders, including especially local communities.

The commitment of the Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park Authority to continuously extend the results of the project has been reinforced by the growing interest of local communities and private companies in biodiversity conservation in the core zone and sustainable development in buffer and transition zones of the CBR. The commitment has also assumed by the district governments for the sustainable management of the CBR to support the interest of local communities in conservation and income generation.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well an acceptable Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the Project PD 777/15 Rev.3 (F) as completed. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon request, by the Secretariat.

(7) PD 852/17 Rev.4 (F) Development of a Regional Strategy for the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Areas on the South Coast of Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	386,123
ITTO Budget:		US\$	125,000
Government of USA:	US\$	125,000	
FDA:		US\$	153,693
BENEFICIARIES:		US\$	107,430

Implementing Agency:	FOUNDATION FOR AGRARIAN DEVELOPMENT (FDA)
Collaborating Agencies:	NATIONAL FOREST AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (SERFOR) OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION
Period of Approval:	September 2019 (as Rev.3 and ITTO budget of US\$149,968) Rev.4 endorsed in November 2020 (with US\$125,000)
Starting Date and Duration:	June 2021 / 24 months & Actual: 16 months

I. Introduction

The Council approved the project at its Fifty-fifth Session in Lomé, Togo, in December 2019. Financing was not allocated at that time, but it was partially funded, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of the USA, at the Fifty-sixth Council Session, in November 2020. The partial funding of the project had led to the modification of the ITTO budget associated to the adjustment of the project activities and it was endorsed in November 2020. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project, with funds secured at the Fifty-sixth Council Session, was signed by all parties in May 2021 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in June 2021. As an acceptable version of the project completion report was received in September 2022, the project operation period had lasted 16 months instead of 24 initially designed by the implementing agency (FDA).

II. Project Objective

The project development objective was to provide a land management tool to improve environmental and socioeconomic conditions in the southern coastal region of Peru through the restoration of degraded lands and population access to sustainable forest and agroforestry systems. It specifically intended to contribute to develop a concerted participatory strategy for the planning of degraded landscape restoration actions to support environmental and socioeconomic sustainability on the south coast of Peru.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Despite the restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mobilization in the field has been made in coordination with the local agents of SERFOR (national forest and wildlife service), and the follow-up was done virtually by the implementing agency (FDA). This hybrid approach for the implementation and supervision of this project contributed to avoid the interruption of the implementation of project activities at the ground level in the target project areas (Department of Arequipa and the provinces of Camaná and Ocoña).

The main project achievements, in relation to the expected outputs and associated activities, can be summarized as follows:

- The specific areas of influence have been delimited in the hills of Atiquipa and Tacahuay, as well as of uncultivated land in Camana, and Moquegua;
- Consultation and validation of the areas of influence, at the level of the Regional Committee for Recovery of Degraded Areas (RAD), had been done on the coordination and involvement of main stakeholders (public and private sector) for the reactivation of the Regional Committee for the Recovery of Degraded Areas;
- Establishment of 80 out of 100 planned hectares of pilot experimental recovery sites;
- Preliminary map for the regional strategy had been prepared for Puchun and Atiquipa and made available by using satellite images of Google Earth;
- Training of users in the establishment and monitoring of experimental modules had been carried out on the techniques to establish the areas for the experimental modules in degraded lands and uncultivated lands, with the participation and collaboration of main stakeholders from the public and private sectors;
- Four forest nurseries had been installed and operational, for establishing agroforestry plantations in uncultivated lands and restoring degraded ecosystems in the coastal hills;
- Environmental, social, and economic analysis of the selected areas had been undertaken for field activities, under the responsibility of the project management while involving of each of the beneficiaries identified in the project areas;

- Participatory regional strategy and guidelines and been developed for the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas on the south coast of Peru, but not formally validated by SERFOR yet at the project completion;
- Project proposal for government/public financing had been prepared by the project implementing team and approved by experts during technical validation workshops.

In addition, all the equipment and material for drip irrigation had been acquired, as well as a motorcycle-cargo, fertilizers, and field tools while the water reservoirs, warehouse and drying area had been constructed in the target project areas.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project implementation contributed to achieve the following expected outputs: i) Map and descriptive report of degraded lands and ecosystems suitable for restoration and rehabilitation; ii) Strategy and action plan for the restoration and rehabilitation of identified and demarcated lands; and iii) Project document on the restoration and rehabilitation of 100,000 ha of degraded lands.

The implementation of this project had led to some intended changes for the benefit of stakeholders, that can be summarized as follows:

- The project intervention had improved the awareness and behaviour of women and men with respect to forestry issues, enabling them to continue being part of the solution regarding forest rehabilitation actions and activities in the project areas in on the South Coast of Peru, through agroforestry plantations;
- Having solved the problem of water supply through drip irrigation systems the project contributed to improving the soil moisture retention capacity, which was crucial for the successful establishment of agroforestry plantations in the target project areas;
- Selection of forestry and agricultural species adapted to irrigation water scarcity conditions, resistant to soil salinity, including the resistance to irrigation with water with a high salt content;
- The project implementation was an opportunity to demonstrate economic alternative opportunities for small farmers to be involved in the forest landscape restoration activities at a bigger scale with the support of SERFOR and other national and international donors.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

In the initial phase of the project implementation, some important adjustments were made to the work plan as an update of the situation because of a long period between the time (in 2017) when the project was formulated and the starting of its implementation (in June 2021), especially in relation to the field activities. During the execution period of the project, the regular and frequent consultation process among stakeholders had been the main lesson learned for having a successful implementation of this project. There had been particular attention paid for keeping a gender equity and balance on project ground activities, giving the same opportunities to women and men, while privileging the work with family and community groups. The capacities of the relevant target beneficiaries had been developed and allowed them to fully take their responsibility in the project implementation.

The main sustainability arrangement could start with the commitment of SERFOR to hold the technical validation workshop, in collaboration with other relevant agencies and institutions, for the approval of the project proposal aiming to scale up the achievements of the project PD 852/17 Rev.4 (F), as well as the approval of the participatory regional strategy and guidelines regarding the restoration and rehabilitation of degraded areas on the south coast of Peru.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Project Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well as the Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the Project PD 852/17 Rev.4 (F) as completed, subject to the satisfactory completion of the Final Financial Audit Report. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

(B) COMPLETED PRE-PROJECTS

(1) PPD 189/17 Rev.3 (F) Development of A Full Project Proposal to Generate Tools to Ensure the Establishment of Timber Forest Species Through Natural Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	103,410
ITTO Budget:		US\$	50,000
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
UNALM:		US\$	43,510
National Forestry Chamber (CNF):		US\$	9,900

Implementing Agency: National Forestry Chamber (CNF) in collaboration with National Agrarian University of La Molina (UNALM)

Period of Approval: September 2017 (as Rev.1 and ITTO budget of US\$87,490)
Rev.2 endorsed in September 2018 (with US\$50,000)
Rev.3 endorsed in September 2019 (with US\$50,000 and change of the pre-project Implementing Agency)

Starting Date and Duration: May 2021 / 6 months

I. Introduction

The Council approved the pre-project at its Fifty-third Session in Lima, Peru, in December 2017, but it was partially funded, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of the USA. The partial funding of the pre-project had led to the modification of the ITTO budget associated to the adjustment of the pre-project activities and it was endorsed in September 2018. However, there was another need to revise the pre-project to switch the Implementing Agency from UNALM to CNF due to UNALM's funds management related regulations. This proposal to change the Implementing Agency was approved in September 2019 through another electronic no-objection procedure. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the pre-project, with funds secured at the Fifty-third Council Session, was fully signed by all parties in December 2020 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in May 2021. However, as an acceptable version of the pre-project completion report was received in March 2022, the pre-project operation period had lasted 9 months instead of 6 initially designed by the implementing agency (National Forestry Chamber) because of the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru. The ITTO Secretariat received the un-audited financial statements which was reviewed by the Division of Operations and considered as acceptable for this pre-project to be documented for the completion and closure procedures.

II. Pre-project Objective

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

III. Pre-project Achievements and Outputs

Based on the pre-project completion report, the main achievements and outputs resulting from the implementation of this pre-project can be mainly summarized as follows:

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

compilation of the standard tools to ensure the establishment of timber forest species through natural regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Republic of Peru. This technical report provides useful information and guidance that forest practitioners (forest concessionaires and native communities) would be able to incorporate into their forest management process, for the technical controls and monitoring of forest stands within the areas under forest management.

- With the participation of the future beneficiaries and stakeholders, a project proposal had been prepared with the title “*Generating silviculture management models for the restoration of forests based on the use of seedlings for natural and artificial regeneration, in the Tahuamanu Province, Republic of Peru*” and it would be submitted in the ITTO project cycle in due time.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The pre-project implementation had been an opportunity to bring together relevant stakeholders for discussing the methodology and technical tools for implementing natural and artificial regeneration as approach for the recovery of the forest. Forest practitioners and/or users, both concessionaires and native communities, had to share their knowledge and experiences to be applied in the field through the use of applicable standard tools compiled in the technical report produced by experts and specialists under the implementation of this pre-project. The implementation of this pre-project contributed to generating models of silvicultural treatments that encourage the forest establishment and recovery with valid standard tools to be used by relevant stakeholders in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term recovery process of forests.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

With the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak in Peru, in 2021, some activities with a strong field interaction had been delayed because of the travel and meeting restrictions imposed by the Government of Peru. Virtual coordination has been carried out with the regional offices, the concessionaires, the native communities, the National Amazonian University of Madre de Dios (UNAMAD), the Ministry of the Environment (MINAM), the Ministry of Agrarian Development and Irrigation (MIDAGRI): the Forest and Wildlife Service (SERFOR), the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA), the Peruvian Amazon Research Institute (IIAP), Madre de Dios headquarters, Forest and Wildlife Resources Supervisory Agency (OSINFOR); among the main ones. This hybrid approach allowed to avoid the interruption of the pre-project implementation.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Pre-project Completion Report and Technical Report, as well as acceptable un-audited financial statements, the Committee may wish to declare the Pre-project PPD 189/17 Rev.3 (F) as completed. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

(2) PPD 196/19 Rev.1 (F) Support for Operational and Planning Capacity-building for Stakeholders in the Private and Community Forestry Sector in Togo

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	109,088
ITTO Budget:		US\$	85,792
Government of USA:	US\$	50,000	
Unearmarked funds:	US\$	35,792	
Government of Togo:		US\$	23,296

Implementing Agency: PLATFORM OF PRIVATE AND COMMUNITY FOREST OWNERS (*PLATEFORME DE PROPRIÉTAIRES DE FORÊTS PRIVÉES ET COMMUNAUTAIRES—PFPC*)

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

Period of Approval: September 2019

Starting Date and Duration: March 2021 / 9 months & Actual: 17 months

I. Introduction

This 9-month pre-project was approved in September 2019 through the electronic approval system, and it was fully funded during the 55th ITTC Session in December 2019, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of USA and the supplementary funds from the ITTO unearmarked funds. The Pre-project Agreement had been signed by all parties in July 2020, and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in March 2021. As an acceptable version of the pre-project completion report was received in August 2022, the pre-project operation period had lasted 17 months instead of 9 initially designed by the implementing agency (PFPC) because of the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Togo.

II. Pre-project Objective

The pre-project development objective was to help developing a sustainable and profitable forest sector through the effective involvement of private and community stakeholders for the purposes of achieving the objectives of extending forest cover in Togo to 30% by 2050. The specific objective of this pre-project was to implement a participatory process for developing six forestry project proposals aimed at enhancing the contribution of private and community stakeholders to the development of the forestry sector in Togo, while ensuring to be in conformity with the procedures, frameworks and requirements of ITTO and other potential international funding partners and initiatives.

III. Pre-project Achievements and Outputs

The implementation of this pre-project had enabled main stakeholders to have the relevant elements to strengthen their interventions in the forestry sector in Togo. The implementation strategy based on an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach, through regular consultations of main stakeholders involved in the management of forest resources and through the holding of training workshops, had contributed to the main achievements summarized as follows:

- Main stakeholders have been involved in a preliminary consultation process for the purpose of sharing information on the pre-project and selecting the relevant ideas to be converted into the development of full projects to be submitted to Togo's bilateral and multilateral partners, and international institutions.
- The capacity building of more than 50 members of the coordination committees of associations of private and community forest stakeholders had been trained in planning, advocacy, and monitoring-evaluation of activities in relation to forest management themes.
- The Five out of six forest-related project proposals had been developed compliance with the international commitments of Togo in the areas concerned with the country's forest national policies and development programs, as well as in compliance the objectives and priorities of international partners, including international institutions like ITTO. These project proposals are considered as contribution to the list projects to be subject to validation by the Government of Togo for submission to Togo's bilateral (France, Germany, Japan, etc.) and multilateral cooperation partners (European Union, UNDP, etc), and international institutions (FAO, GEF, ITTO, etc.), through a process which was not formally carried out yet at the pre-project completion.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The members of the coordination committees of associations of private and community forest stakeholders had played an active role in the realization of the pre-project achievements. They participated in the various consultation meetings for information sharing on main ideas selected for the development of projects which could contribute to providing support to their forestry-related activities in Togo. They also participated in various training workshops, exchanges on project ideas, validation of concept notes on future projects dealing with the followings aspects: forest production (establishment of forest plantations, restoration of degraded forest landscape, sustainable management and utilization of existing forests) for stakeholders in the private and community forestry sector in Togo.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The implementation of this pre-project had made it possible to bring together relevant stakeholders to identify their weaknesses and needs in terms of project planning and forest management and to strengthen cohesion within their associations and groups through successive consultations. Along the process, the will of stakeholders had been reinforced to give a new dynamic to the national forest sector, through the process

leading to the development of identified project proposals, with the involvement of stakeholders from the private forest sector of Togo.

This pre-project contributed to gather useful elements for the development of five project proposals that could enable private and community forestry stakeholders to strengthen their interventions in the forestry sector in Togo. The sustainability of the results of this pre-project, including the financing of the project proposals developed through the process, which is a major concern for the stakeholders, will depend on the capacity of the multidisciplinary team set up to promote the developed project proposals developed to Togo's bilateral and multilateral partners.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Pre-project Completion Report, as well as an acceptable Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the Pre-project PPD 196/19 Rev.1 (F) as completed. Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

(C) COMPLETED BIENNIAL WORK PROGRAMME-BASED ACTIVITIES

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: March 2020 / Planned: 12 months & Actual: 28 months

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

I. Introduction

This 12-month BWP Activity was funded as part of the First Programme Line (PL1) titled “Legal and Sustainable Supply Chain (LSSC)” under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with some appropriate provisions of Decision 8(LV). This BWP Activity was funded during the 55th ITTC Session in December 2019, thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan (Japan Forestry Agency). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this BWP Activity was duly signed by all parties in March 2020. The Executing Agency (RIFFEAC) initiated the BWP Activity implementation after the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds on 27 March 2020. The implementation of this BWP Activity had been based on the findings and results of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5 funded by Germany and executed by RIFFEAC. The delay in the implementation of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, due to the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Congo Basin countries, led to the extension of the implementation period until March 2022 and correlated modification of the ITTO budget. As an acceptable version of the completion report was received in July 2022, the operation period had lasted 28 months instead of 12 initially designed by the implementing agency (RIFFEAC) because of the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Congo basin countries. The demise of the consultant François HIOL HIOL on 2 April 2022 had also been an additional cause of delay for the completion of this BWP Activity.

II. Project Objective

Overall, this BWP Activity contributed to the promotion and implementation of good practices for sustainable forest management in the Congo Basin countries by gradually building the human resource

capacity in important areas of sustainable forest management, including facilitating compliance with the requirements for the implementation of legal and sustainable supply chains in forest products. Specifically, it had intended to establish proven expertise among the stakeholders associated with legal and sustainable supply chains (LSSC). The single document of compilation of the results of four LSSC-related training programs, developed through the implementation of the German-funded BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, had been the tool for information sharing and facilitating the transfer of knowledge and expertise to the main stakeholders associated with the LSSC issues in Congo Basin countries.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Based on information from the implementing agency (RIFFEAC) and the completion report, the main achievements and outputs of this BWP Activity can be mainly summarized as follows:

Products/activities	Main achievements
Output 1: A training module, based on the compilation of the contents of the training programmes produced by BMEL-Germany Activity 5 of ITTO's LSSC Programme, is developed and validated	
Activity 1.1: Compile the results of the 4 training programs produced by BMEL-Germany Activity 5 in a module to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and expertise to LSSC stakeholders.	The following four training programs were made available to the consultant for compilation into a single module: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1: Understanding the "Deforestation-Free" concept • Module 2: Assessing legality and establishing accountability • Module 3: From legality to sustainability • Module 4: Markets and their access
Activity 1.2: Organize a regional workshop for the validation of the training module, developed in the implementation of Activity 1.1, by stakeholders, and also to develop the program for the organization of national training sessions.	Regional Validation Workshop held on 20 and 21 December 2021 in Douala, Cameroon Integration by the consultant of the amendments proposed by the participants during the workshop, for the finalization of the compiled module. The report of the regional validation workshop is available, for more information.
Output 2: Capacity and expertise in compliance with LSSC requirements is strengthened for key stakeholders in Congo Basin countries.	
Activity 2.1: Print and distribute the training module validated by LSSC stakeholders in the Congo Basin countries	Validated module amended and made available in electronic version, through the RIFFEAC network of training schools, in Congo Basin countries, as technical tool for training courses on LSSC-related matters. It was also distributed to ITTO Focal Points in Congo Basin countries, as well as to the representatives of private forest sector and to those of civil society organizations operating in forest sector.
Activity 2.2: Organize training of trainers' sessions among stakeholders, at the national level, with the training module validated by stakeholders (regional workshop).	National training of trainers' workshops on the single training module took place in ITTO member countries in the Congo Basin (Cameroun, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, and Congo-Kinshasa). The report of each of the five national training workshops is available, for more information.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

A consultant was selected to compile the four LSSC training modules, developed during the implementation of activity PP-A/55-334 (D1902) BMEL-ITTO Activity 5, into a single module. This module was validated during the regional validation workshop held on 20 and 21 December 2021 in Douala, Cameroon by relevant stakeholders.

The single module, validated by key LSSC stakeholders, was disseminated to ITTO member countries in the Congo Basin (Cameroun, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, and Congo-Kinshasa) at meetings organized by RIFFEAC and led by the consultant. To achieve the operational pedagogical objective, the consultant distributed the single module in electronic version as a working document and then adopted a masterful associated with a participatory approach for the maximum involvement of the participants.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

At the end of the five training workshops, the recommendations made were almost the same in each country. The participants suggested that for a better dissemination of the single module to the different stakeholders in the LSSC-related matters in the Congo Basin countries, it is necessary to print the single module and distribute the hard copies to the actors concerned by LSSC. By making available the validated LSSC-related compiled module through the RIFFEAC network of training schools, this could contribute to the sustainability by using it as technical tool for training courses on LSSC-related matters.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the BWP Activity Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well as the Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the BWP Activity PP-A 53-323 LSSC-Japan as completed. Soft copies of reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: January 2021 / Panned: 12 months Actual: 18 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: Extension until 30 June 2022 (NOLF.21-0091)

I. Introduction

This BWP Activity project was funded as an activity of the Second Programme Line (PL2) entitled "Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" and Fourth Programme Line (PL4) entitled "Emerging Issues and Innovation" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in accordance with Decision 8(LV). The Government of Japan funded this project through its emergency assistance for the effective management of forest fires in the tropics. The project agreement was duly signed in August 2020 and the project started in January 2021 under a one-year timeframe. The project was extended until the end of June 2022 due to the COVID-pandemic. Since the Project Completion Report and Audit Report for 2021 was submitted in August 2022, the project is considered for completion and closure.

II. Project Objective

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

The development objective of this project was to reduce the occurrence of forest and land fires through strengthening capacity building in forest and land fire management to support the sustainable forest management in Indonesia. The specific objective was to improve the prevention of forest and land fires through strengthening the management and technical capacity of stakeholders at the national level and three targeted provinces: South Sumatera, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

Output 1: Best agricultural practices applied

- Completed eight technical training on zero burning practices for the local community. To address the community's need for economic empowerment, three additional technical trainings for community economic empowerment were organized. All trainings were packaged as integrated land preparation with no burning practices.
- Established eight demonstration plots for zero burning practices by the community. The practices did not change the basic process of agricultural practices that farmers used to apply that emphasized the use of biomass wastes resulting from land clearing. In addition, three fish ponds were established to improve the income of the communities. Local stakeholders were also included in the training and demonstration plots establishment.

Output 2: Strengthened management capacity to address forest and land fires problems

- Provided four technical trainings on fire management for forest fire brigade (Manggala Agni) as initially targeted. However, considering the importance of this training, seven additional fire management trainings were organized to reach all the local fire stations in the three provinces. In addition, three basic fire management trainings were organized for the new members of Manggala Agni along with the organization of three fire mechanics trainings specifically for all sub-local fire stations in the three provinces.
- Developed a new monitoring and reporting system for fire prevention patrol (SMART Patrol Information System) in collaboration with Mathematics and Natural Science Faculty (FMIPA) IPB University. The SMART Patrol Information System was also equipped with a user manual video and manual for parameter measurement. A launching event for SMART Patrol Information System was held in July 2022 with a National Seminar on Forest and Land Fire Prevention: Policy, Social Approach, Technological Innovation. The apps have been utilized not only in project's area, but also throughout Indonesia.
- Provided a set of safety clothes and fire equipment to support Manggala Agni in implementing fire control. The items include safety coats, safety shoes, portable fire water pumps, motorcycles, handy talkies, and portable oxygen tubes.

Output 3: Forest and land fire prevention actions increased and cooperation strengthened among local institutions, the private sector and communities for forest fire prevention

- Considering the Covid-19 pandemic protocol on travel and gathering people restrictions, instead of physical meetings, the IPB University successfully organized 7 monthly online-webinar series on fire management. In response to positive feedbacks from the participants of the webinars, five additional fire webinars were organized by MoEF. The fire webinars featured international fire experts and practitioners and were viewed by many participants in the region.
- Strengthened synergy and cooperation among fire stakeholders at the national, regional and site levels to improve the implementation of forest and land fire management.
- Outreach efforts have been promoted by disseminating project work through mass media, online media (including an official website), and also social networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

Implementing the project during the COVID-19 pandemic, the project team encountered significant challenges in time management and coordination with involved stakeholders to carry out all scheduled project activities. Intense communications and coordination among the Executing Agency, CCFLFM Agency in Sumatra and Kalimantan, local fire stations and Project Management Unit, including strong commitment and full support of the stakeholders, were the important element for the successful project implementation. In general, all planned activities had been fully implemented in accordance with the original project design and to some extent had addressed gender issues to facilitate their participation in fire management, but some of the deviations had also occurred in the form of upward and beyond targets.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The project has been successful in strengthening management and technical capacity of stakeholders at the three targeted provinces: South Sumatra, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan, and national level through a series of training courses, workshops and webinars, promotion of zero burning practices and SMART

Patrolling systems, as well as the provision of fire prevention and safety equipment. The key outcomes of the project include:

- Fire Care Community (Masyarakat Peduli Api) groups become the agent of changes in forest and land fire prevention through best agriculture practices/sustainable agricultural and silvicultural management to their neighborhoods and implementing zero burning practices.
- Improved performance of Forest and Land Fire Brigade (Manggala Agni) and government officials in forest and land fire management, and effective response to forest and land fires.
- Participation of all stakeholders in forest and land fire prevention is increased with improved coordination and communications on forest and land fire issues.

The knowledge and skills obtained from the project trainings and the equipment and systems provided will effectively provide a good supporting system for daily fire control activities in the three targeted provinces: South Sumatera, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan. The communities are encouraged to participate in fire prevention more actively. The integrated land preparation without burning approach has become a national policy for forest fire prevention and it will be continuously expanded.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The lessons learned from the project identification and design through the completion of its activities can be summarized as follows:

- The project was well formulated and prepared to cope with the improvement of fire prevention through strengthening the management and technical capacity of stakeholders. The flexibility to adjust the scope and the timeframe of the activities was an important factor for successful project implementation during the Covid-19 pandemic situation.
- In terms of smoothing the project implementation, good communication, understanding and supports among project's stakeholders are really needed, and it requires more cooperation, commitment and support. The project implementation should also be supported by a strong project management unit with key project personnel capable in handling administrative, financial and field operations.
- The complex works of fire management require synergy and collaboration from all stakeholders including Government, fire brigades, private sectors, communities, universities, NGOs, and international agencies.
- Community participation in fire prevention should be encouraged, assisted, and facilitated from time to time by the government and other stakeholders.
- Economic empowerment is required to increase the income of the communities as an incentive to participate in fire prevention programs. Agroforestry and sylvo-fishery are recommended farming systems.
- Fire brigades (Manggala Agni) should be trained periodically to maintain and improve their capacities in fire management.
- Fire prevention equipment should be revitalized over time to meet needed quality and quantity.

The completed activities successfully delivered the defined outputs of the project. It is important to ensure sustainability of the project benefits that have been achieved. The synergy and collaboration of the stakeholders arose during the project implementation, including their resources contribution and support, become the key elements to continue the project benefits in the framework of forest and fire management. The project's executing agency and its implementation units in the provinces have a crucial role in continuing the activities initiated and benefits delivered from the project. The regional agencies, local fire stations, and Manggala Agni will stand ready to assist and facilitate the communities in implementing integrated land preparation without burning practices.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat has received the Project Completion Report, Technical Reports, as well as the Financial Audit Report for financial year 2021, the Committee may wish to declare the BWP Activity Project PP-A/56-340-1 as completed, subject to the satisfactory completion of the Financial Audit Report covering the extended period from January to June 2022 that is being prepared by an independent audit firm (Mazars-Japan). Soft copies of the project-related reports can be made available, upon request, by the Secretariat.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: January 2021 / Planned: 12 months & Actual: 28 months

I. Introduction

This project was funded as an activity of the Second Programme Line (PL2) titled "Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" and Fourth Programme Line (PL4) titled "Emerging Issues and Innovation" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with Decision 8(LV). The project agreement was signed between ITTO and SERFOR in August 2020. This project was fully funded thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs / MOFA), and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in January 2021. As an acceptable version of the completion report was received in August 2022, the operation period had lasted 18 months instead of 12 initially designed by the implementing agency (SERFOR) because of the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Peru.

II. Project Objective

The objective of this project was to contribute to the conservation of forest ecosystems and other types of wild vegetation under threat of forest fires. Its specific objective was to reduce forest fires by strengthening the capacities of national and local authorities in taking urgent actions for forest fire prevention and response. Positive effects of the project include the reduced loss of forest cover, ecosystems and natural habitats of wild flora and fauna; greater capacity of the national and local authorities and local communities in prevention and response to forest fires; reduced emissions of greenhouse gases; and increased awareness about forest fires so as to accelerate the implementation of national and regional forest fire action plans. In addition, the project had supported relevant institutions with early-warning and information systems, while disseminating forest-related regulations.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The BWP Activity was designed to improve the prevention and control of forest fires, with a focus on 5 departments (Cajamarca, Huánuco, Junín, Pasco and Ucayali). Based on the completion report and mid-term evaluation report, the achievements and outputs resulting from the implementation of relevant activities of this BWP Activity, can be mainly summarized as follows:

- improving coordination and cooperation between national, regional authorities and local communities in the work to prevent and respond to forest fires.
- increasing awareness on the value of forests and on the importance of forest fire prevention and response, particularly among rural communities.
- strengthening the capacity of government agencies, fire brigades and local communities to prevent and respond to forest fires.
- elaborating, validating, and making available protocols on forest fire prevention and forest fire response.
- strengthening the volunteer fire brigades in the 5 departments covered by the project, through training focused on forest fire response and provision of appropriate vestments.
- involving local and/or indigenous communities in fire prevention and response networks.
- Strengthening SERFOR'S Geographical Information and Remote Sensing systems and services and enhancing and improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the country's forest fire monitoring system.

- A significant number of community organizations/associations did contribute to or participate in the project implementation, and this has been and is important to the long-term achievement and sustainability of Output 1 (Best forestry and agroforestry management and best agricultural waste practices) and Output 4 (Knowledge management and outreach for forest fire prevention and response). On the other hand, no evidence of rehabilitation or establishment of additional community organizations was found, an outcome foreseen under Activity 1.3.1.
- Contribution to substantially strengthening SERFOR's Training and Capacitation Department, enhancing its ability to organize and conduct training and capacity building for forest fire prevention and response, in a continuous and more systematic way. To the possible extent, within the project short duration, through SERFOR's digital platform, EDUCA, training materials and courses syllabi and methodology were adapted to reach the 3 target groups - public authorities, fire brigades and rural producers - virtually and, when possible, physically.
- The training offered to fire brigades was successfully implemented, attracting a large number of participants, with 287 people initially registered to attend the virtual and presential training events. Moreover, out of the 287 registered people, 209 attended all 4 training events conducted in this training/capacitation component.

The BWP Activity was subject to a mid-term evaluation carried by the consultant Manoel SOBRAL FILHO, in June 2022, and the main findings are summarized in the Committee Document CRF(LVI)/4.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The main outcomes and impacts, which were achieved through the implementation of relevant activities, can be summarized as follows:

- increasing/enhancing the motivation and ability of selected organizations and hundreds of people to prevent and respond to forest fires; of particular notice is the strengthening of the (volunteer) fire brigades, which had over 200 members trained and had their capacity enhanced to respond to forest fires
- increased capacity of the SERFOR and other Peruvian state agencies to plan and implement prospective, correctional and response measures to improve their forest fire management work
- local community members reached/trained by the project's awareness-raising and capacity building activities are now agents of change of fire prevention/response attitudes, which in turn should contribute to reduce human-induced forest fire and fire damage
- The increased skills/strengthened capacity contributed to improve forest fire management, which in turn will consequently contribute to lower CO² emissions caused by forest fires and help forests maintain the provision of ecosystems services
- The training and capacity building may also lead to economic gains to local producers that adopt alternatives to fire to deal with residues, such as using waste for composting/fertilizers, as taught/promoted in the project
- SERFOR's enhanced capacity and the training tools and platforms strengthened/developed will facilitate scaling up of training/capacity building, including for the country departments not covered by the project

For a 12-month project, the duration is not enough for a final judgment on the abovementioned effectiveness and impacts of the training/capacity building. An in-depth assessment of effectiveness and impact could be conducted in an ex- post evaluation which, if deemed desirable, may be planned for some time after the completion of this BWP Activity.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

Reducing forest fire/forest loss in Peru is a daunting and ambitious objective. The project showed that this can be achieved, even with a relatively low budget and short implementation time, when the project is designed to build-up on relevant active/operational national and regional government agencies and services and plan and implement activities in a participatory way, with broad-based consultation and cooperation with non-government organizations and local communities. When designing future similar projects designating government agencies to be responsible for implementation, it would be advisable to estimate and decide on required implementation time taking into account that less flexible and more time-consuming government regulations often lead to delay in contracting personnel and services, as well as in purchase of equipment/capital goods, delaying implementation of planned activities.

It is important to note that the project delivered on key aspects that could be essential for uptake, including appropriate selection/engagement of stakeholders, implementation of communication and dissemination actions, taking into account language and other cultural aspects; and capacity building, including uptake-friendly online and web-based training tools/platform as well as a training for "trainers" sub-component in Uçayali. However, demonstrating the success of uptake and diffusion and their impact is difficult within the short duration of this BWP Activity (12 months), given that they will mostly take place at least some months after its completion. Future actions to improve uptake sustainability prospects could include (1) scaling-up project activities (e.g. by incorporating project activities in the regular operations/budget of SERFOR and also by seeking external funds for an eventual second project phase), and (2) implementing additional actions designed specifically to promote uptake, whose progress should be subject to regular monitoring and evaluation.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the Completion Report, several Technical Reports, as well as the Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the BWP Activity PP-A/56-340-2 as completed, subject to the satisfactory completion of the Financial Audit Report covering the extended period from January to June 2022 that is being prepared by an independent audit firm (Mazars-Peru). Soft copies of above reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

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

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

Starting Date and Duration: October 2020 / Planned: 12 months & Actual: 15 months

I. Introduction

This 12-month BWP Activity was funded as part of the Third Programme Line (PL3) titled "*Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods*" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with some appropriate provisions of Decision 8(LV) calling upon the ITTO Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking new funding avenues and partners for the funding of ITTO's work. This BWP Activity was fully funded by Soka Gakkai (SG), in March 2020, after a successful consultation process between ITTO and SG, based on the concept note and profile-document prepared by the implementing agency (REFACOF) in compliance with the framework and requirements of the financial donor (SG). The Memorandum of understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this BWP Activity had been duly signed by all parties (Government of Togo, REFACOF-Togo, Implementing Agency and ITTO Secretariat) in October 2020, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in October 2020. As an acceptable version of the completion report was received in January 2022, the operation period had lasted 15 months instead of 12 initially designed by the implementing agency (REFACOF) because of the travel and meeting restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic in Togo.

II. Project Objective

This BWP Activity aimed at supporting women's groups in two of Togo's poorest Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, where forest restoration and enrichment planting took 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 intended to contribute to food security, meeting their needs in fuel energy and to generate income from wood and non-wood forests products, including food crops derived from agroforestry activities, while empowering women groups involved in the implementation of this BWP Activity.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

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

Expected outputs have been achieved as follows:

- 100 women from 7 groups were trained in nursery production techniques, reforestation, and agroforestry,
- 8 ha of *Taungya* type plantations and 12 ha of agroforestry had been established.

The members of women groups are both beneficiaries and implementing actors. They were involved in the various stages of the activities carried out in the target project sites. Training in nursery seedlings production techniques, reforestation and agroforestry enabled them to produce **28,257** seedlings of **13** forest species (*Acacia auriculiformis*, *Senna siamea*, *Khayasenegalensis*, *samaneasaman*, *Leucena*, *Citrus aurantifolia*, *Citrus sinensis*, *eucalyptus*, *terminalia superba*, *gmelina arborea*, *albizia chevalerie*, *Parkiabiglobosa*, *sterculiafoetida*). Details of production by site and species are given in the table below:

AGOUEGAN		PAGALA-GARE	
Species	Number of seedlings	Species	Number of seedlings
<i>Acacia auriculiformis</i>	6300	<i>Khayasenegalensis</i>	7958
<i>Senna siamea</i>	554	<i>Terminalia superba</i>	1730
<i>Khayasenegalensis</i>	810	<i>Gmelinaarborea</i>	4012
<i>Samaneasaman</i>	311	<i>Samaneasaman</i>	572
<i>Leucena</i>	279	<i>Albiziachevalerie</i>	676
<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	2200	<i>Citrus aurantifolia</i>	1249
<i>Citrus x sinensis</i>	232	<i>Citrus x sinensis</i>	315
<i>Eucalyptus</i>	86	<i>Parkiabiglobosa</i>	853
		<i>Sterculiafoetida</i>	120
Total Agouegan	10 669	Total Pagala-Gare	16 683
Total seedlings produced: 28257			

These seedlings were used for the creation of 8 ha of forest plantations using the *Taungya* method and 12 ha of agroforestry. The various forestry-related tasks (clearing, picketing, drilling, planting, maintenance, and protection) were organized under the leadership of the women beneficiaries. Food crops associated with the seedlings are maize, sorghum, beans, cassava, and soybeans. The production of these food crops contributed to the food security of the women involved in the project implementation and their communities.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The implementation of this BWP Activity was carried out by REFACOF-Togo, with the support of the REFACOF regional coordination and the ITTO Focal Point in Togo. At the beginning of the implementation, a sensitization mission was carried out in both target prefectures to exchange with the local administrative and traditional authorities on the objectives of the BWP Activity, the identification of the sites and the organization of the launching workshop. Thus, the administrative and traditional authorities were informed about the importance of restoring forest landscapes degraded by human activities.

The women's training sessions organized on nursery for seedlings production and reforestation techniques contributed to the transfer of knowledge and techniques allowing women's groups to be efficient during the execution of this BWP Activity.

With regard to the choice of species, it was made by mutual agreement with the beneficiaries on the basis of the speed of growth and the multiplicity of uses of the trees that will be produced. Similarly, livestock crops associated with trees in forest plantations had been chosen by women's groups, to cover their food needs and contribute to the food security of their communities. Reforestation associated with food crops had

not been only a factor in the fight against deforestation and climate change but also an asset for improving food security and household incomes.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The women's groups have been well organized and have common interests. They have been able to use the skills acquired, particularly in the techniques of seedling production, reforestation, and agroforestry. The renewal of food crops facilitated the maintenance of forest plantations, while contributing to the normal growth of planted trees.

Securing the land used was very important for women's groups: in Pagala-Gare, the plot used for forest landscape restoration activities was bought by the women themselves; it is therefore a property of these women; and in Agouegan, the plot used for activities was graciously offered to women's groups by the traditional chieftdom with a right of use for these women.

The Phase 2 of this BWP Activity has been prepared by REFACOF and funded by the same financial donor (Soka Gakkai), in order to consolidate and sustain the achievements of the current BWP Activity being implement as a pilot phase in Togo's Blitta and Lacs Prefectures. The disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds required for the commencement of the implementation of the Phase 2 was made in April 2022.

VI. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat received the BWP Activity Completion Report, as well as a satisfactory Final Financial Audit Report, the Committee may wish to declare the BWP Activity PP-A 56-341 as completed. Soft copies of reports can be made available, upon written request, by the Secretariat.

* * *