



# Sustainable tropical forestry for inclusiveness, resilience and sustainable development

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"The Role of Universities in Realizing Inclusiveness and Resilience in a Global Society"  
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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



— GLOBAL —  
FOREST  
— GOALS —

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO)

# Inclusiveness, resilience and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



- Inclusiveness and resilience are part of the targets of many of the SDGs:
  - Explicit
  - Implicit
- More info: [sdgs.un.org/goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals)
- ITTO's mission—aligned with the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes that “ending poverty must go *hand-in-hand* with strategies to:
  - *build economic growth,*
  - *address social needs (livelihoods, gender, etc.)*
  - *tackle climate change and*
  - *preserve the environment.*”





# ITTO's mission



- Promote the **sustainable management and conservation** of tropical forests.
- Promote the **expansion and diversification of trade** in tropical wood from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.

The **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)** is **THE SOLE** inter-governmental organization focused entirely on tropical forest resources.

ITTO membership covers **over 80% of global tropical forests** and account for **90% of trade in tropical forest products!**



# Tropical forests, key for inclusiveness and resilience



- Forests cover **31% of the planet's land surface**, and are among the world's most productive land-based ecosystems:
  - conserve soil and water
  - filter the air we breathe, mitigates climate
  - prevent land degradation and desertification
  - host terrestrial biodiversity
  - reduce the risk of floods, landslides, droughts and other disasters, among others
- Around **1.6 billion people** depend on forests for their subsistence.
- **Tropical forests represent 45%** of all forests (1.84 billion ha).
- **Over 70%** of global population in **extreme poverty** live in **the tropics**.

**CRITICAL TO SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF  
TROPICAL FORESTS!**





# Benefits of sustainable tropical forestry



- The sustainable harvesting, processing and trade of tropical timber and other forest products:
  - supplies residential and commercial consumers worldwide,
  - contributes to local and national economies, and
  - **Enhances value to tropical forests**—a key factor in **reducing forest conversion to other economic land uses**.
- When sustainably managed, tropical forests are:
  - **healthy, productive** and **renewable** ecosystems.
  - the sustainable management of forests is of critical importance for most SDGs, in particular:

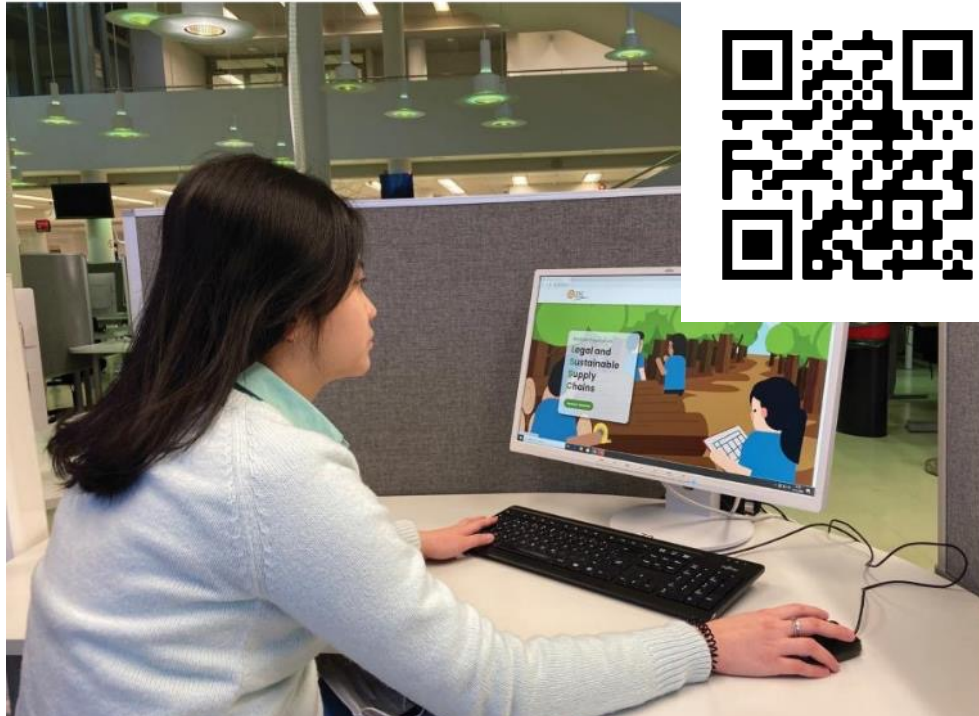


# Forest education—much needed for safeguarding natural resources, inclusiveness and resilience



- ITTO and partners—global assessment on forest education, completed in October 2022:
  - Forest education is essential for safeguarding natural resources.
  - The assessment addresses education and training related to forests, trees outside forests and other wooded land and covers all levels of formal education: primary, secondary, technical and vocational education and training, universities and colleges.
  - There’s an urgent need for well-trained forest workers, entrepreneurs, practitioners, researchers, professionals and policymakers and a well-informed public to maximize the contribution of forests to the SDGs.
  - Forest education should:
    - be locally relevant
    - be inclusive/accessible and
    - take into account digital divides, language barriers and gender and racial/ethnic balance.
- Uptake forest education—key role for governments, universities and educational institutions.

# LLSC online course—an ITTO contribution on global forest education



<https://lsscource.com/>

- ITTO June 2021—launched a free online learning course on legal, sustainable timber supply chains (LSSC).
- **INCLUSIVE**—open to all—CONNECTS with resilience of tropical forest ecosystems.
- Four modules:
  - Sustainable forest management, reduced impact logging and forest landscape restoration,
  - Timber legality assessment,
  - Meeting legality requirements for ensuring sustainable outcomes, and
  - Marketing for expanding, maintaining and forest businesses.
- The course highlights sustainable use of forest resources—**ESSENTIAL** for protecting biodiversity and maximizing the contributions of forests as nature-based solutions to climate change.
- Raising awareness of sustainable production and consumption—shared responsibility of ALL stakeholders.



# Learning modules on forest landscape restoration— inclusiveness and resilience for future generations



- In 2021, ITTO and partners released a free series of learning modules for ALL stakeholders, including high-school and university students to guide further understanding on forest landscape restoration (FLR):  
[www.itto.int/resources/learning-materials](http://www.itto.int/resources/learning-materials).
- FLR involves holistic and inclusive approaches to restore ecological functions of degraded lands and simultaneously create diverse, sustainable socio-economic benefits for people living on a wider scale.
- FLR has many dimensions, and **educating future generations is crucial for its success—role of universities and educational institutions.**



# Empowerment of rural women—inclusiveness and resilience in Togo



- An ITTO project in Togo's Blitta and Lacs prefectures (two of the poorest) has **empowered 100 women** in the **restoration of their forests**—about 35 ha.
- The project contributes to **climate-change mitigation, food security, bioenergy (reforestation and agroforestry)**—**inclusion of poor women** - improved **resilience** of rural populations often left behind.
- Major benefits to date:
  - **Women** - acquired seedling production skills, producing seedlings for their own use and their communities (about 48 000 seeds in two years).
  - Increased food production has enabled the communities to meet their food needs and sell the surplus to generate substantial income.
  - Women - improved livelihoods and diversified sources of revenue—a sense of pride and financial independence.
  - Social cohesion has been strengthened.
  - Women - more visibility at the regional, prefectural and national level.
- Successful project – 3rd phase ongoing.
- Project funding - with **generous support from Soka Gakkai**

Watch a video by *Seikyo Shimbun*:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DB-FBYP2W08](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DB-FBYP2W08) (Japanese) and

[https://youtu.be/9\\_0VY0U1ITU](https://youtu.be/9_0VY0U1ITU) (English)



# FLR for the inclusion of refugees and displaced people in e.g. Côte d'Ivoire



- An ITTO project completed in 2018: brought people together for the restoration of gazetted forests of Scio and Duekoue.
- The project assisted with the humanitarian needs of internally displaced people, refugees and local communities—**inclusiveness**.
- A major component = sensitization campaigns that encouraged collaboration on the sustainable management of forests.
- The project **enriched and protected natural forests using high-quality seeds of indigenous and exotic tree species** through the establishment of agroforestry systems—**resilience**.
- The project enabled the **establishment of nine cooperatives (with more than 7000 members) in nine villages** for the management of warehouses, the installation of food-processing equipment:
  - Improved living standards,
  - Reconciled communities and social integration, and
  - Empowered women.

Watch a video and more:

[www.itto.int/project/id/PD419\\_06-Rev.3-F-EXT](http://www.itto.int/project/id/PD419_06-Rev.3-F-EXT).





# Mangrove restoration and livelihoods in Fiji— impacting the lives of vulnerable groups



- An ITTO project completed in 2022: supported local communities and Fiji’s government in restoring mangroves in the Rewa Delta (a poor area affected by climate change—sea level rising).
- Fiji has the third-largest area of mangroves in the Pacific, and communities depend on them for their subsistence—**resilience**.
- The project established sites for mangrove restoration and rehabilitation (including nurseries):
  - E.g., the Nasilai women’s group planted 5000 mangrove seedlings along the foreshore.
- Empowered communities and stakeholders, improved decision-making on mangroves. Some communities banned the cutting of mangroves and women’s involvement improved food security—**resilience**.
- Developed guidelines on mangrove used and management.
- Raise awareness of the importance of mangroves.
- Introduced **alternative livelihoods** which are benefiting households – apiaries (beehives), brackish water shrimp farming, fruit tree planting, piggery farms, etc.

The sustainable use of mangroves involving local communities is an effective management resource approach that **benefits people, the economy and the environment**—**inclusiveness**.

Watch videos and more: [www.itto.int/project/id/PD696\\_13-Rev.2-F](http://www.itto.int/project/id/PD696_13-Rev.2-F).



# Community forest enterprises in Guatemala— inclusiveness and resilience for sustainable development



- In Guatemala, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are the largest collective source of employment. MSMEs face many challenges: lack of solid accounting and access to financing, obsolete equipment, lack of marketing, limited market opportunities, etc.
- An ITTO project completed in 2018: propelled the formalization of MSMEs by developing business plans and building capacity to implement them.
- One of the project's beneficiary enterprises was Sacalá located in Chimaltenango:
  - In 1998 Sacalá was a small carpentry workshop with manual equipment (there was no electricity).
  - Established as a limited company in 2004, expanded its workshop in 2012.
  - Sacalá—support from the project to develop a business plan, increase management capacity, create a more robust company structure and develop new products and designs. **It now offers its clients more than 100 products.**
  - Sacalá sells its products to retailers. One of them is CEMACO, a chain with 17 stores nationwide.
  - **The company's revenue doubled between 2015**—at the start of the project—and 2018. It now has 12 full-time employees (including women in the company's management and in the workshop), supporting about 60 dependents in the village.

**Positive impact = include reduced migration, improved quality village life, improved forest management, increased income, etc.—inclusiveness and resilience.**

Watch a video and more: [www.itto.int/project/id/PD756\\_14-Rev.1-M](http://www.itto.int/project/id/PD756_14-Rev.1-M).





# Capacity building for inclusiveness and resilience—ITTO Fellowship Programme



- Promotes human resource development.
- Strengthens professional expertise in tropical forestry and related disciplines:
  - the sustainable management of tropical forests
  - the efficient use and processing of tropical timber
  - the improvement of economic information on the international trade in tropical timber
- Supports short training courses; internships; study and demonstration tours; preparation, publication and dissemination of technical papers; participation in conferences, seminars and workshops; and post-graduate studies.
- Established in 1989:
  - Benefited over 1400 young and mid-career professionals from 49 countries in pursuing career development with a gender balance close to 50:50 ratio—**inclusiveness and resilience**.
  - Investment (awards) **totalling USD 9.8 million**.
- **Key impacts:**
  - 61% of fellows obtained a relevant job position or job promotion soon after completing their Fellowship.
  - 73% of fellows indicated “totally related” or “strongly related” to whether any job promotion or new job position they had obtained was due to the **skill or knowledge they gained from the Fellowship**.
- Prominent donors are the governments of **Japan, the USA, the Netherlands, and Australia**.



# In conclusion ...



- The sustainable management of tropical forests, forest-based enterprises and international tropical timber trade **add value to tropical forests** and **contribute significantly to inclusiveness and resilience** while improving economies and livelihoods.
- Sustainable tropical forestry contributes to almost all the SDGs.
- **Further investments** in sustainable tropical forestry and forest enterprises are needed for promoting **inclusive and resilient solutions** that produce positive outcomes for people and the environment in a circular economy.
- **Multi-stakeholder involvement and gender parity are critical—empower decision-making = social, environmental and economic benefits = achievement of the 2030 Agenda.**

Universities and educational institutions have a critical role in educating the future generation of leaders for **the uptake of supporting sustainable tropical forestry & sustainable development.**



# Promote the conservation of tropical forests!



**LSSC online course**



**ITTO Policy Series**



**ITTO Technical Series**



**Other reports**



<http://www.youtube.com/user/ittosfm>



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