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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 7(LVII) – MATTERS
RELATED TO ARTICLE 15 OF THE ITTA, 2006 ON COOPERATION AND
COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

(Item 13 of the Provisional Agenda)



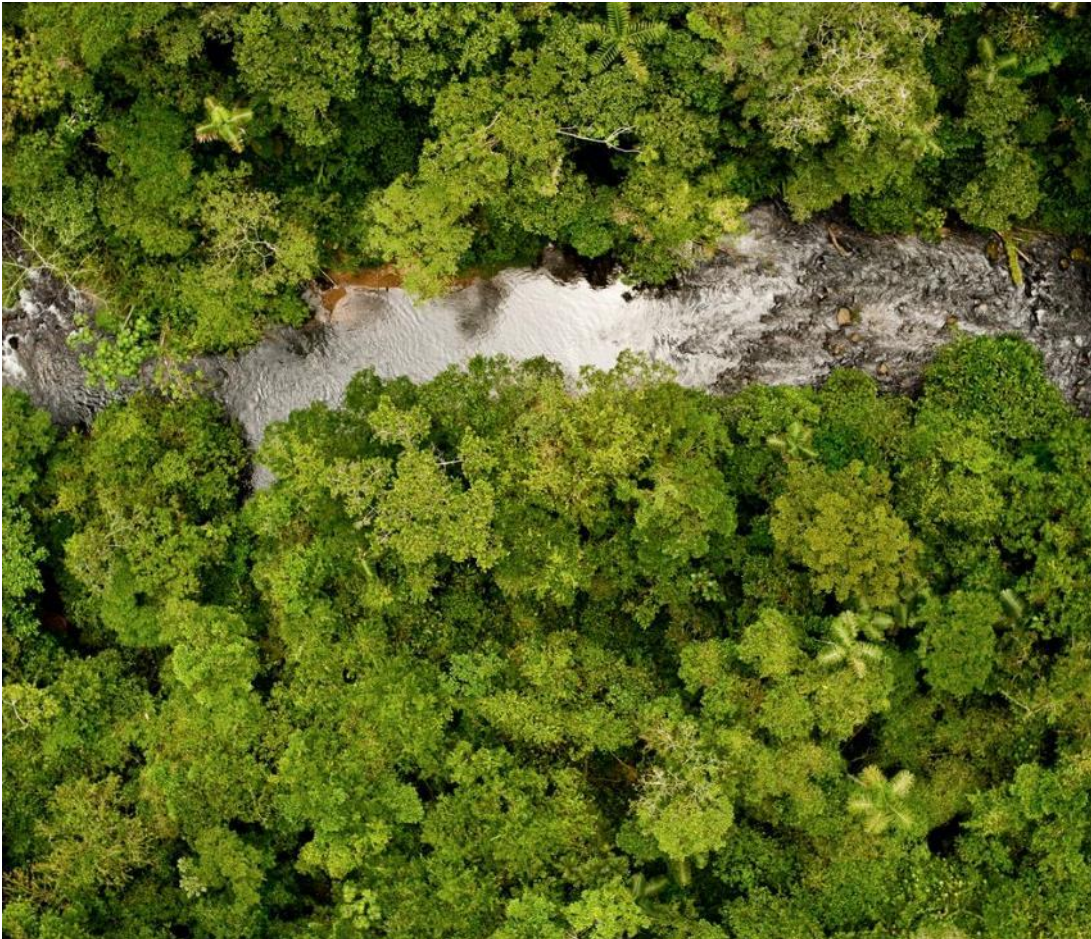
Progress report Implementation Decision 7(LVII)— Matters related to article 15 of the ITTA 2006 – cooperation and coordination with other organizations

Council Agenda, item 13
Fifty-ninth Session of the ITTC
13–17 November 2023



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO)

International Organizations — CPF



- ITTO made a statement during the [side-event that launched the CPF Joint Call to Action for Forests towards 2030](#), during the **SDG Summit (United Nations General Assembly, Sept 2023)**, calling for substantive investment and cross-sectoral cooperation” in tropical forests to escalate ITTO and CPF impacts towards the achievement of the SDGs.
- **CPF side-event “Turning the Tide on Deforestation” at UNFCCC COP 27**, ITTO noted the insufficient prominence given to forests as an effective nature-based solution (NBS) to climate change.
- CPF retreat in Nairobi May 2023 – planning for the CPF presence at the SDGs Summit & brainstorming for COP28
- Supported IUFRO’s policy brief under the CPF umbrella- release of the Global Forest Expert Panel on Forests and Human Health’s report on the International Day of Forests (IDF).
- ITTO + CPF members [celebrated the IDF](#). ITTO ED released a statement highlighting how sustainable forestry is crucial for human health.
- **CPF Joint Initiative on Primary Forests** – ITTO & other CPF partners expressed interest in this GEF project – **ITTO in talks with FAO & IUCN**.
- **CPF High Level Event at UNFCCC COP 28** on two CPF Joint initiatives – ITTO present.

International Organizations —UNFF



ITTO at UNFF18

- ED presented at the [panel on the forests–energy–livelihoods nexus](#), advocating for increased contribution of SFM for wood-based bioenergy.
- ED moderated the side-event “[Enriching biodiversity in tropical production landscapes through sustainable forest management](#)”. The outcomes of the independent assessment of the Joint ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity were presented, along with prospects for scaling it up.
- Contributed to the [CBD–UNFF side-event](#) that explored the interlinkages between the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Forest Goals; ITTO advocated the need for more investment, also for productive forests as means for conserving biodiversity.
- ED moderated the [panel with multilateral and regional funding institutions and banks on transformative actions](#); ITTO asserted that forest investments must be scaled up to recognize the true value and centrality of forests, particularly tropical forests, in providing diverse products, benefits and services.



International Organizations — FAO



- ITTO contribution–**2024 State of the World’s Forest (SOFO)** report–case study on innovations in SFM, based on recent outputs from an ongoing timber tracking project in Guatemala.
- ITTO participated at the **30th Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission**:
 - Side-events on Criteria and Indicators and the Montreal Process.
- FAO, IUFRO and ITTO joint release–the **Global Assessment of Forest Education at COFO26**.
- ED presented the ITTO Fellowship Programme and other education initiatives during **COFO26** and the **8th World Forestry Week**.
- Regional workshop for **Central America on Forest Statistics (1stQ of 2024 in Mexico)**.
- **FAO & ITTO Co-led SW4SW**–now an ongoing CPF Joint Initiative – Global Trade Index & Platform, GLSTF Conference Macao, traceability projects, etc.

International Organizations — IUFRO



- ITTO and Teaknet co-hosted a [side-event](#) at IUFRO's Forest Products Conference in Cairns, Australia, in June 2023. The event explored means for boosting the value of teakwood products.
- ITTO will be part of **IUFRO World Congress in June 2024**.
- The Global Assessment of Forest Education – ongoing efforts for funds.
- ITTO and IUFRO to explore production of more learning modules on FLR.

International Organizations — UNDP & UNEP



ITTO participated at the three-day virtual Nature for Life Hub in the lead-up to CBD COP 15 in November 2022:

- ITTO ED [called for more investment](https://www.learningfornature.org/en/nature-for-life-hub-2022/nature-for-life-hub-2022-events-page/) in sustainable tropical forestry, forest-based industries and a sustainable timber trade to achieve a nature-positive future. See: www.learningfornature.org/en/nature-for-life-hub-2022/nature-for-life-hub-2022-events-page/ and www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nxJ5vj5QgM.



International Organizations and Conventions—CITES



- ITTO - active participation at CITES COP 19:
 - Presented a technical report on agarwood, published as ITTO Technical Series No. 51 "[Exploited, Endangered and Expensive](#)", which serve for deliberations at COP 19.
- ITTO participated in the celebrations for World Wildlife Day (3 March):
 - ED's statement published on World Wildlife Day's website (www.wildlifeday.org/en/message/sheam-satkuru).
- ITTO participation on CITES Plants Committee meetings in 2022 and 2023.
- Successful completion of a project in Ecuador on sustainable management of mahogany (TFU [No. 31/2](#) for a summary of project's outputs).

ONGOING WORK:

- Madagascar - monitoring/tracking rosewood piles.
- Cameroon - DNA tracking for *Prunus africana* and *Pericopsis elata* (TFU [No. 30/2](#) - summary on project's approach).

International Conventions—CBD

- MoU between CBD and ITTO 2022-2026.
- ITTO's active participation at CBD COP 15:
 - ITTO ED - [statement at the high-level segment](#), urging further investments in tropical forests to ensure sustainable use of biodiversity, water resources, and carbon sinks.
 - CBD, IGES and ITTO co-hosted a [side-event](#) showcasing global lessons on biodiversity conservation in tropical forest landscapes.
 - ITTO booth to disseminate its work and interact with delegates.
- [Side-event at UNFF18](#), showcased ITTO projects implemented under the ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity for achieving the targets within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity.
- ITTO highlighted its ongoing [field work in the Giam Siak Kecil-Buit Batu Biosphere Reserve](#), Indonesia on the International Biodiversity Day (22 May 2023).
- As of February 2023, eight projects are ongoing as part of the [ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity](#).
- CBD's website reported on the independent review of the ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity. See: www.cbd.int/article/improving-outcomes-for-biodiversity-and-people.



International Conventions—UNFCCC COP 27



- ITTO ED Statement - **High-Level Segment**—advocating for the value of tropical forests as carbon reservoirs at the core of climate change.
- **Side-event** at the Indonesian Pavilion “**Collaborative Partnerships on Land and Forest Fire Management in Dealing with Climate Change Issues**”, ITTO showcased the fire management projects recently completed in Indonesia and Peru.
- The event “**Two Leaders’ Dialogue on Global Climate-friendly Forest Policy**”, held in the ICC Pavilion, featured Ms Satkuru and Mairi McAllan, Scotland’s Minister for the Environment. ITTO advocated more focus on sustainable consumption and increased attention on tropical forests as a climate-change solution.
- **Side-event “How Increasing Forest Cover Helps for Climate-change Adaptation”**, held in the Panama Pavilion, ITTO stressed the effectiveness of tropical forests in mitigating climate change.



International Organizations and Conventions—UNFCCC COP 27 (continuation)



- **Side-event: “The potential of REDD+ as a Cooperative Approach and the Need for Capacity Building”**, co-convened by ITTO, Korea Forest Service and Soka Gakkai—explored Japan’s Joint Crediting Mechanism as a pioneering mechanism under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- **Side event:** Presented **ITTO project in Togo**—empowered a group of 100 women to restore degraded land.
- **CPF side-event “Turning the Tide on Deforestation”** (mentioned earlier).

ITTO presence at upcoming COP 28:

- **Side-event “Advancing Sustainable Forest Management: Financing Mechanisms for Carbon and Biodiversity”** on 5 December 2023.
- Booth on 8-9 December 2023.
- **CPF–2 side-events 9 December 2023**—planning in progress with partners.

International fora—G7



- ITTO ED moderated the seminar “Toward Net Zero and Circular Economy with Sustainable Wood Use”, during the G7 Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting in Miyazaki, Japan in April 2023.
- Joint Communiqué in May [2021](#) and [2022](#). G7 Ministers agreed to accelerate the **transition to sustainable supply chains that decouple trade and agricultural production from deforestation and forest degradation and to promote sustainably produced wood and wood products, including through ITTO.**
- [G7 Environment Ministers Communique 2023](#)—ITTO requested to attend but not invited to attend:

(Inter alia) “will work with relevant international organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Forum on Forests and the International Tropical Timber Organization to promote sustainable forest management and timber use.....”



International Financial Institutions—GCF



ITTO met with Green Climate Fund (GCF) 3x virtually and in-person in July 2023 to progress accreditation process & [discuss stronger collaboration](#) in July 2023;

GCF inundated with Re-Accreditation applications and prioritize these. New applicants have to wait.

Regular e-mail contact – DAP Updates etc; Addressed Accreditation Panel enquiries (ESM & Fiduciary).

LATEST: GCF aiming to table ITTO for accreditation at March 2024 GCF Board meeting.



Regional development banks—ADB



- ITTO met with ADB HQ officials in Manila in July 2023:
 - ADB and ITTO to explore opportunities to work together in encouraging SFM and the trade of legal and sustainable tropical forest products.
 - ADB highlighted its recent institution-wide prioritization of environmental sustainability. Forestry is key but ADB lacks expertise in the subject—benefit of collaborating with ITTO.
 - Entry points:
 - Trade regulations
 - Forest carbon (sequestration and credits)
 - Sustainable wood use
 - FLR
 - Fire management
 - Wooden cities
 - **DISCUSSIONS ONGOING ...**

Regional organizations and fora—APEC



ITTO updated on its work to APEC Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade (EGILAT):

- [24th plenary meeting](#) in July 2023- ITTO showcased its work in promoting sustainable wood use in domestic markets, with examples of projects in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- ITTO also presented at the workshop on timber legality tools, held back-to-back with EGILAT 24th plenary meeting.
- **23rd APEC EGILAT** meeting in February 2023—[ITTO advocated for increased backing for community forest enterprises](#), especially in the tropics, to enhance the production, trade and distribution of legally harvested timber and timber products in the domestic markets.
- **Engagement with APEC to continue in 2024.**

Regional organizations and fora—AFoCO



- Memorandum of Understanding was signed in May 2022 operationalized in 2023/24:
 - Forest conservation,
 - Forest restoration,
 - SFM and the sustainable production and consumption of forest products and ecosystem services.
- Both organizations to seek collaboration opportunities.



Cooperation with the Korea Forest Service



- ITTO ED met with Korea's Vice Minister and leaders of the Korea Forest Service (KFS), the National Institute of Forest Science (NIFS) and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) in July with the aim of strengthening cooperation on sustainable tropical forest management, forest landscape restoration and community development.
- ITTO and Korea Forest Service signed a cooperation arrangement in July 2023 – exploring project funding opportunities.



Cooperation with Japan, ITTO host country



- ITTO and [JICA renewed cooperation in October 2022](#):
 - Work spans 2022–2026,
 - Focus on capacity building and knowledge sharing to advance sustainable forestry in the tropics.
- ITTO and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) [signed a MoU in October 2022](#):
 - Joint capacity building and information and experience exchanges.
 - Climate change, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Global Forest Goals, land degradation neutrality and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
 - Promoting REDD+ under Japan's Joint Credit Mechanism.

Cooperation with Japan, ITTO host country (continuation)



High-level outreach meetings held in 2023:

- Yokohama City Council Liberal Democratic Party members visited ITTO headquarters in October.
- Courtesy visit with ex Prime Minister Parliamentary Suga Yoshihide in July.
- Courtesy call by members of Yokohama City Council and Diet in July.
- ITTO Executive Director Sheam Satkuru met with Sumitomo Forestry President and Executive Officer, Mr Mitsuyoshi Toshiro, in Tokyo in July.
- Etc., etc... ..



Cooperation with Japan, ITTO host country (continuation)



Lectures to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable tropical forestry in 2023:

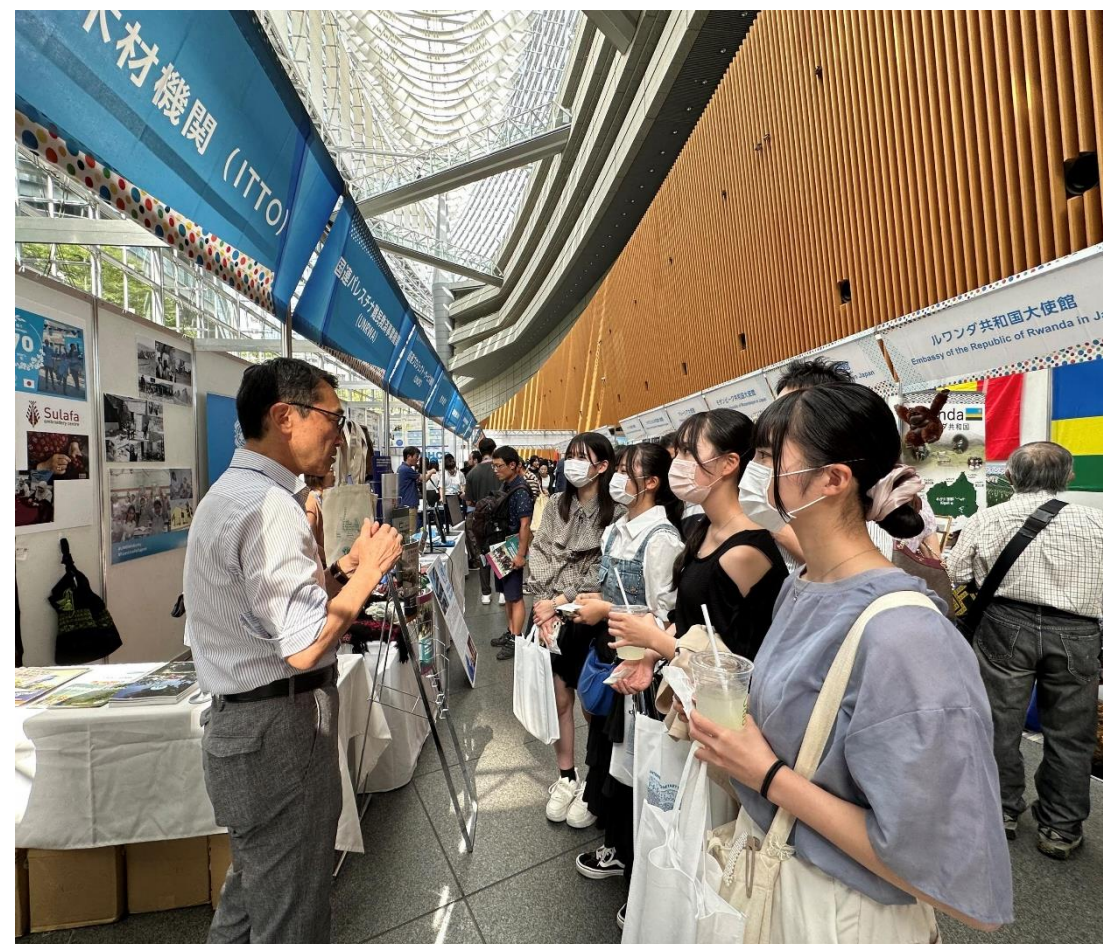
- ITTO lecture for the Omnibus class on environment and development at Soka University in October.
- ITTO and City of Yokohama hosted summer class for students on tropical forests (Kodomo Adventure College) in August.
- ITTO ED Keynote on the **Role of Universities in Realizing Inclusiveness and Resilience in a Global Society** at the 2023 Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) International Conference held in June at the Soka University, Tokyo.
- ITTO officers gave a **lecture to Yokohama Science Frontier High School students on wood use** in Japan in March.
- International Christian University (ICU) students visited ITTO in February.
- Future commitments:
 - JICA trainees and
 - Tsukuba University students.

Cooperation with Japan, ITTO host country (continuation)



Exhibitions and social events in 2023:

- **Poster on sustainable forestry in the tropics:**
 - Distribution and display of a new poster to raise awareness among Yokohama citizens of the **important role of tropical forests in planetary wellbeing and ITTO's work at Yokohama City Hall and at schools in Yokohama (494 schools).**
 - The poster was produced by ITTO and the City of Yokohama, in collaboration with Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Forestry Agency.
- ITTO present at **Global Festa Japan 2023**, Tokyo International Forum in Sept–Oct.
- **Dignitaries from the Government of Japan, the City of Yokohama, foreign missions in Japan, private associations and NGOs** attended ITTO Fireworks Reception–Minato-Mirai Smart Festival, July 2023.
- **Display of ITTO posters–Tokyo Metro** in April 2023.
- ITTO participated at the international conference, “**Blue Carbon Ecosystems for Sustainable Development with Special Emphasis to Mangrove Ecosystems**”, Yokohama National University, January 2023.



Decision 7(LVII) IMPLEMENTATION



Paras 1 & 6 – ED reported to ITTC 58 and is reporting to ITTC59, on implementation of this Decision over 2022-2023, as contained in the PPTs from ITTC58 & ITTC59.

Para 2 – Implementation of the SAP 2022–2026 in ITTO project agreements, CNs for ITTO events/participation at other joint activities, incorporated into all MoUs/LoUs/Joint Initiatives with partner Organizations.

Para 3 – ITTO yet to see any assistance from member countries to access GEF8 replenishment funds through country-driven programmes. In discussion with FAO & IUCN on the Indo-Malaya GEF project (pursued independently).

Para 4 – Co-sponsorship on joint participation at several international events (speakers, Wangari Mathai Awards etc).

Para 5 – Funds raised = voluntary contributions of US\$50,000 from JAPAN – utilized for all activities reported in 2022–2023. **To continue such efforts, more voluntary contributions are needed beyond December 2023.**

Thank you very much!



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