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ITTO FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2022 & 2023 (FREEZAILAH FELLOWSHIP FUND) (Item 12 (a) of the Provisional Agenda)

Introduction

1. This document is prepared pursuant to Decision 4(XXVII), which requested the Executive Director to prepare progress reports on the implementation of the ITTO Fellowship Programme for Council's review during its regular Sessions.
2. In keeping with this Decision, this document reports on the work related to the implementation of the ITTO Fellowship Programme since the end of the Fifty-eight Session of the ITTC and outlines measures to be considered at the Fifty-ninth Session regarding the operation of the Freezailah Fellowship Fund.

Progress in Implementation

3. Advertisement and Dissemination of the ITTO Fellowship Programme

The Secretariat continues to advertise the ITTO Fellowship Programme in the Tropical Update (TFU), on the ITTO website and our social media platforms, as well as at various events.

4. Status of Fellowship Awards

The Fellowship Programme, which began in 1989, has enabled more than 1400 young and mid-career people from 49 countries working for governments, universities, research institutions, NGOs and the private sector to pursue their professional development and improve their career prospects.

The Programme mainly supports short-term activities, such as short training courses and internships, and study and demonstration tours. It also provides funds for Manuals/Technical Documents Preparation/Publication/Dissemination, sponsors people to participate in Conference/Seminar/Workshop and provides small grants for post-graduate study.

The Programme provides funds to individuals of ITTO member countries covering a wide range of geographic regions: 40% of the fellowships have been awarded to people from Africa, 30% to people from Asia-Pacific and 30% to people from Latin America/Caribbean. It also focuses on gender balance and encourages capacity development of women foresters. Around 40% of the total number of fellowships have been awarded to female applicants.

Funding

5. The total funds for the Fellowship Programme to date amount to approximately US\$9.8 million. Funding has been provided through the generous voluntary contributions from Japan (68%), U.S.A. (19%), the Netherlands (7%), Australia (2.5%) and others (3.5%) including Sweden, U.K., Finland, Bali Partnership Fund Sub-Account (b) and the private sector. Total available funds for the ITTO Fellowship Programme (2023 cycle is **US\$ 140,959.74**).

6. Recalling Decision 4(XXVII) which sets a maximum amount of US\$300,000 per year for fellowship awards, until such time that appreciable increases in funding become available, Council may wish to approve additional funds to cover awards, programme support, and other related costs. The Secretariat estimates that to maintain the Programme at the level of 20-30 awards per year, an amount of US\$200,000 would be needed in 2024.

Report of the Fellowship Selection Panel

7. Fellowship selection for 2023 was conducted electronically, and the finalization of the selection of successful applicants for the Autumn 2023 Cycle were made through email exchanges by the Selection Panel and Secretariat. The Selection Panel of 2023 are as follows:

Chairperson:	Ms. Anna Tyler	(Vice-Chairperson, ITTC)
Producers:	Mr. Joseph Appiah-Gyapong Mr. Leoncio Calderon Acosta Mr. Arsene Ewossaka	(Ghana) (Peru) (République of Congo)
Consumers:	Ms. Rata Muda Ms. Kate Macken	(New Zealand) (USA)
Supported by:		
Secretariat:	Ms. Sheam Satkuru Ms. Elsie Yang Lingyun	

8. The ITTO Secretariat received a total of 97 applications which were rigorously screened. A total of **16** eligible applications were shortlisted. The Selection Panel considered these 16 applications, made up of 9 from Asia/Pacific (2 from India, 2 from Indonesia, 1 from Malaysia, 3 from Myanmar and 1 from the Philippines), 3 applications from Africa (all from Togo) and 4 applications from Latin America and Caribbean region (2 from Mexico, 1 from Peru and 1 from Colombia). 11 of the applications were in the field of Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM), 4 were in the field of Forestry Industry (FI) and 1 from EIMI. 5 applicants of the 16 shortlisted applicants were female.

When reviewing these 16 applications, the Panel used the following selection criteria:

- (i) Consistency of the proposed activities with the ITTO Fellowship Programme's objective and priority areas;
- (ii) Qualifications of the applicants to undertake the proposed fellowship activities;
- (iii) Applications and benefits of the skills and knowledge to be acquired or advanced under the fellowship activities; and
- (iv) Reasonableness of costs in relation to the proposed activities.

The Panel took into account the balance among the three subject areas and regions as well as the opportunity to promote the participation of women. The Panel also took into account the Strategic Action Plan in its selection Process. The Panel recommends to the Council to award the 16 fellowships with a total budget of **US\$107,023.69**. The recommended applicants are listed in the Appendix to this report.

9. Due to the limited time available during the Council Session, all consultation with the Fellowship Panel Members were conducted successfully through e-mail exchanges/virtually before the Council Session. The final report will be presented to the Council by the ITTC59 Vice-Chairperson, Ms. Anna Tyler (New Zealand), who will provide a short brief on the selection of awardees recommended by the Panel Members.
10. The 2024 Fellowship Selection Panel is scheduled to be appointed either during the ITTC59 or before the summer in 2024.

Appendix
LIST OF APPROVED FELLOWSHIP Awardees (2023 Fellowship cycle)

Number	Firstname	Lastname	Sex	Nationality	Field	Area	Language	Type of Organization	Type of Activity	Title/Theme of Proposed Activity	Proposed budget (in US\$)	ITTO contribution (in US\$)	Revised/approved Budget for funding (in US\$)	Remarks
002_23A	Mekoumambe	BAYADEA	M	Togo	RFM	AF	F	Public Service	Technical Document Preparation/Publication/Dissemination	Preparation/Publication/Dissemination of a dissertation entitled "Diachronic studies and contributions to the sustainable management of the Kara classified forest in the commune of Kozsh2 in the North Togo".	10,802.00	9,900.00	7,070.00	Subject to budget modification
003_23A	M Murugan	Menikam	M	Malaysia	RFM	AP	E	Public Service	Participation in Conference/Seminar/Workshop	Participating in the XXVII IUFRO World Congress 2024 in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2024	4,125.00	4,125.00	4,125.00	
006_23A	Suraj	Goswami	M	India	FI	AP	E	Public Service	Post-Graduate Degree Program	PhD in Forestry/Forest Management, Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, India	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	
010_23A	Kodjovi Mawuegnigan Léonard	AGBODAN	M	Togo	RFM	AF	F	University	Post-Graduate Degree Program	Post-doctoral Study in Life Sciences in the Laboratory of Botany and Plant Ecology (LBEV), University of Lomé (UL), Lomé, Togo	7,557.60	7,557.60	7,557.60	
017_23A	Komi	AKAKPO	M	Togo	RFM	AF	F	Research Institute	Post-Graduate Degree Program	The Post-Graduate Study (Thesis entitled "Development of estimation models and valuation into granules of dead leaves and products from the first thinning of plantations teak in Togo") in Forestry Research Laboratory of the University of Lomé, Lomé, Togo	9,824.76	9,824.76	9,354.61	Subject to budget modification
019_23A	YE LWIN	AUNG	M	Myanmar	RFM	AP	E	Research Institute	Technical Document Preparation/Publication/Dissemination	Developing an identification guide to orchid biodiversity in Myanmar: Implication for Biodiversity Conservation	9,800.00	9,800.00	5,800.00	Subject to budget modification
041_23A	Ambika	Budskoti	F	India	FI	AP	E	Research Institute	Study Tour	Study tour to the Applied Mycology Lab, Department of Wood Science and Engineering, College of Forestry, Oregon State University, USA, to study and get trained in Wood Spaiting using forest fungi.	9,334.00	9,334.00	9,334.00	
042_23A	Victor Alexis	Peña Lara	M	Mexico	RFM	LA	S	University	Study Tour	Mapping of the taxonomic, functional and phylogenetic diversity of tropical forests of the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico	6,787.48	6,787.48	6,787.48	
048_23A	Haryanto	Yatap	M	Indonesia	RFM	AP	E	Public Service	Post-Graduate Degree Program	Doctoral Degree in Forest Management Science, IPB University, Bogor, Indonesia under Research (DBR), an innovative program developed by National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN)	9,800.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	
060_23A	Albert	Piñon	M	Philippines	FI	AP	E	University	Post-Graduate Degree Program	PhD Study in Forestry, majoring in Silviculture and Forest Influences, University of the Philippines for the School Year (2024-2025). (His PhD dissertation is entitled: Advancing the Science of Urban Forestry in the Municipalities of Los Baños and Bay, Philippineser, Apayao, Philippines.)	6,160.00	6,160.00	6,160.00	
061_23A	May	Phyo	F	Myanmar	RFM	AP	E	ITTO Project	Post-Graduate Degree Program	Master's Degree Research on "Assessing Challenges and Weaknesses in the Forest Certification Sector of Myanmar: Drawing Insights from China's Forest Certification", School of Ecology and Nature Conservation, Beijing Forestry University, Beijing, China	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	
064_23A	Mohammad	Yunus	M	Indonesia	RFM	AP	E	NGO	Technical Document Preparation/Publication/Dissemination	Preparation/Publication/Dissemination of Master's Degree Research Thesis: Economic Value of Peatland Ecosystem Services in Riau Province, Sumatra	9,200.00	9,200.00	5,500.00	Subject to budget modification
066_23A	Zoile Lasmit	Cerón Cancharis	F	Peru	EIMI	LA	S	NGO	Post-Graduate Degree Program	Master's Study in Economics, Development and Climate Change in Tropical Agricultural Research and Teaching Center, Turrialba, Cartago, Costa Rica	10,000.00	10,000.00	5,000.00	Subject to budget modification
070_23A	Su Myint Than	Myint Than	F	Myanmar	FI	AP	E	Research Institute	Post-Graduate Degree Program	PhD Course for Interior and Product Design in Lovey Professional University, Chaheru, Phagwara, Punjab, India	8,150.00	8,150.00	8,150.00	
088_23A	MARIA	KUIRU CASTRO	F	Colombia	RFM	LA	S	Others (Indigenous People's Association)	Technical Document Preparation/Publication/Dissemination	Preparation/Publication/Dissemination of a book entitled "Ancestral Forests of Amazon: Interlacing Women's Knowledge, Ecosystems and Crops, We Restore Ecosystems and Conserve Biodiversity".	7,618.00	7,618.00	6,818.00	Subject to budget modification
091_23A	JULIO	SALAS-RABAZA	M	Mexico	RFM	LA	S	Research Institute	Participation in Conference/Seminar/Workshop	Participating in the XXVII IUFRO World Congress in Stockholm, Sweden in June 2024 and make a presentation titled "Do tree-mediated greenhouse gas emissions offset blue carbon in mangroves "	5,092.00	5,092.00	4,367.00	Subject to budget modification