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**REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS, PRE-PROJECTS
AND BWP PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES**

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 PRE-PROJECTS

None.

(B) COMPLETED PROJECTS

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

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,447,891
ITTO Budget:		US\$	556,963
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	556,963	
EMBRAPA:		US\$	576,807
MMA:		US\$	263,271
IFT:		US\$	50,850

Implementing Agency: Embrapa Amazônia Oriental (EMBRAPA), Belém, Pará

Period of Approval: Rev. 5: Approved in November 2014

Starting Date and Duration: August 2017/36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension until 31 January 2022 (NOLF.20-0020)
Second extension until 31 January 2023 (NOLF.21-0074)
Third extension until 31 January 2024 (NOLF.23-0008)
Fourth extension until 30 April 2024 (NOL F24-0009)

I. Introduction

This project was originally approved under the spring 2008 Project Cycle and was resubmitted twice by the Government of Brazil with budget modifications. The project was fully financed at the Fiftieth Session of the Council in November 2014, and the Project Agreement was duly signed in December 2015. The Executing Agency, however, requested further modifications on the project development and specific objectives, expected outputs and activities, and an addendum to the project agreement was finalized in June 2017. Project implementation started in August 2017, after the first instalment of funds.

II. Project Objective

The project's development objective aims to strengthen the adoption of good forest management practices by medium and large-scale timber enterprises in the Brazilian Amazon. The project builds on the outcomes of an earlier ITTO project, PD 57/99 Rev.2 (F) "Sustainable Management of Production Forests at the Commercial Scale in the Brazilian Amazon – Phase I".

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

III. Pre-project Achievements and Outputs

The project transcribed and updated the SFM software tools developed under PD 57/99 Rev.2 (F) for compatibility with current computer operating systems and for the ease of future maintenance. The SFM tools are:

- BOManejo (tool for timber harvest planning and management) www.embrapa.br/en/bom-manejo
- MFT Tropical Forest Monitoring <https://nextcloud.cpatu.embrapa.br/index.php/s/qTBWQgqeisQWda5>
- MOP Monitoring of (Forest Management) Operational Performance <https://nextcloud.cpatu.embrapa.br/index.php/s/yZjfm92N8DAJybb>
- MEOF The tool for Economic Monitoring of Forest Operations

Training on the use of the SFM tools was conducted with universities, timber enterprises, community forest management entrepreneurs—an additional group of stakeholders not originally included in the project document—and government agencies within the Brazilian Amazon, at least 712 people were trained in the state of Pará. Manuals, presentations, datasheets and other materials were produced for demonstrative purposes at several dissemination and training events.

Dissemination of the SFM tools was done through a series of events, videos, flyers and TFU articles. Noteworthy international events include the 2019 and 2024 editions of the IUFRO World Congress and the 2021 GLF Amazônia (virtual). TFU articles and videos produced by the project are accessible through the ITTO project and concept note searches (www.itto.int/project/id/PD452_07-Rev.5-F) and the ITTO YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/ittosfm/videos>).

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

Derived from stakeholders' dissemination and validation of the SFM tools, a need to create a web-based version of them was identified. A beta version of the "BOManejo web" is currently being tested (<https://bomanejo.online/>) (restricted access).

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted many of the field activities which led to partial modification of some outputs with strong dissemination components or support to forest communities. The duration of the project had to be extended accordingly.

The project's final dissemination workshop under the title "The Peoples Forest: a positive agenda for Community and Family Forest Management, Conservation and Protection of the Territory Resex Verde para Sempre, Porto de Moz PA" took place in March 2024.

According to the completion report, the project contributed to the achievement of several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular goals 5, 8, 12, 13 and 17.

The project was conceived to stimulate good forest management practices in medium and large-scale enterprises. Many of the enterprises which today legally produce timber in the Amazon Region are executing projects under federal or state concessions, with detailed rules and controls by government agencies. On the other hand, community forest management (CFM) requires further technical assistance and support. A new project proposal for a third phase of the project with a focus on CFM has been submitted to ITTO's latest project cycle.

The project strengthened institutional arrangements and partnerships for the continuous promotion of SFM in the Amazon, including the Observatory of Community and Family Forest Management and the Amazon Forest Forum, a coalition of more than 40 members, including private companies, research institutions, associations, cooperatives, and indigenous representatives, which will assist in continuing disseminating project outputs and outcomes.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The ITTO Secretariat has received project completion report, a technical report and final financial audit, thus the Committee may wish to declare the project as duly completed, subject to the satisfactory review of the final audit report by the ITTO Secretariat. Reports and outreach products produced by the project are available from the project search tool on the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PD452_07-Rev.5-F.

(2) **PP-A/59-353** **Enhancing the Value of Secondary Natural Forests through their Sustainable Use, Generating Rural Employment in a Post-Covid Context (Costa Rica)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	364,500
ITTO Budget:		US\$	250,000
Government of Japan:	US\$	250,000	
Government of Costa Rica:		US\$	114,500
Implementing Agency:	FORESTRY TIMBER & INDUSTRY CHAMBER ASSOCIATION OF COSTA RICA		
Collaborating Agency:	CARBON REVENUE SERVICES S.A. (CRS)		
Starting Date and Duration:	July 2023 / 12 months		

I. Introduction

The 12-month BWP Project-based Activity, which is referenced PP-A/59-353 [CN-21004], is derived from the Concept Note CN-21004 after the expression of interest of Japan in financing it under the Japan's emergency supplementary budget for 2023, with the compulsory pre-condition/requirement allowing to use the funds of the Japan's supplementary budget within a maximum period not exceeding 12 months until March 2024. Considering this compulsory condition/requirement, the BWP-based Activity implementation duration was reduced from 18 to 12 months. The Agreement governing the implementation of this BWP Project-based Activity had been signed by all parties in May 2023. As an acceptable version of the completion report was received in March 2024, the technical operation period had lasted 12 months as 12 initially designed by the implementing agency (*FORESTRY TIMBER & INDUSTRY CHAMBER ASSOCIATION OF COSTA RICA*) and the collaborating agency (*CARBON REVENUE SERVICES S.A.*) in the project document and detailed work plan.

II. Pre-project Objective

Costa Rica has an internationally recognized track record for forest and biodiversity conservation, as well as effective actions to combat climate change. This has allowed Costa Rica's forests to become a net sink for greenhouse gases since 2014. Despite the progress made in the conservation agenda, the country's forest sector faces several challenges to improve its performance, as the forest industry is currently underdeveloped and obsolete, requiring support in the development of innovation in production processes and forest products. This BWP Project-based Activity's development objective is to contribute to the conservation of secondary forests and their ecosystem services, while its specific objective is to establish tools to increase the value of secondary forests for their conservation and development.

III. Pre-project Achievements and Outputs

Based on the completion report and technical report submitted by the implementing agency and collaborating agency, the achievements and outputs regarding the implementation of this BWP Project-based Activity can be mainly summarized as follows:

- Output 1: Diagnosis of the structure and composition of secondary forests in the country had been carried out and finalized in cooperation with relevant stakeholders and beneficiaries who are directly or indirectly involved in the sustainable management and valuation of secondary forests, as well as in the manufacture and marketing of innovative timber products in Costa Rica.
- Output 2: A strategy for improving sustainable secondary forest management governance to enhance competitiveness had been developed for implementation through a participatory approach, including both men and women, as well as youth, and the strategy-related draft document was technically validated by relevant stakeholders during a national workshop. The process for the final endorsement of the strategy-related document, at political level, was not possible during the 12-month duration of the implementation. The strategy-related document was titled: "*Oportunidades de mercado para los*

productos de madera de bosque secundario / Market opportunities for secondary forest wood products".

- Output 3: Selected timber products, as innovative prototypes to access available market niches, were subject to studies/trials through consultations with local stakeholders, producers and timber processors, as indicated in a technical report from which is extracted the following summary table:

Scientific names	Common names	Dominance Abundance Index	Wood density
Block 1 North Pacific zone			
<i>Spondias mombin</i>	Jobo	20.9%	0,31
<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i>	Guácimo	20.5%	0,48 a 0,61
<i>Cordia alliodora</i>	Laurel	10,8%	0,44
Block 2 North Pacific zone			
<i>Guazuma ulmifolia</i>	Guácimo	28.8%	0,48 a 0,61
<i>Bursera simaruba</i>	Jiñocuabe	28.6 %	0,51
<i>Cordia alliodora</i>	Laurel	26.0%	0,44
Block 3 Upala zone			
<i>Tetragastris panamensis</i>	Canfin	14%	0,70
<i>Enterolobium scomburgkii</i>	Guanacaste macho	9.7%	0,75
<i>Dendropanax arboreus</i>	Fosforillo	9.6%	0,45 a 0,55
Block 4 North Zone B			
<i>Pentaclethra macroloba</i>	Gavilán	34.1%	0,70
<i>Dialium guianense</i>	Tamarindo	14.7%	0,83

- Output 4: Guidelines for the design of a marketing strategy taking advantage of the promoted country brand image had been drafted and subject to technical validation with relevant stakeholders, while the process for the endorsement of guidelines by the Government of Costa Rica could not be finalized during the 12-month implementation period.

During the implementation of this BWP Project-based Activity, target beneficiaries had shown interest in being able to use the data and results derived from its implementation. In this sense, there had been different levels of coordination involving these target beneficiaries, such as the Foreign Trade Promotion Office (PROCOMER), the Ministry of Economy and Commerce (MEIC), SINAC (Sistema Nacional de Áreas de Conservación (*National System of Conservation Areas*) of Huetar Norte, SINAC of Chorotega region, the Costa Rican National Commission for Forest Sustainability, the National Learning Institute (INA), the San Carlos Forestry Development Commission (CODEFORSA), and Huetar Norte Regional National Forest Financing Fund.

A cross-cutting intergenerational and gender approach was used in the production of each output with the aim of generating opportunities for the most vulnerable communities in the project's target area in Costa Rica (Chorotega Region and the Northern Huetar Region). A draft article, summarizing the abovementioned achievements and outputs, was submitted for publication in the ITTO quarterly magazine Tropical Forest Update (TFU).

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

In Costa Rica, the secondary forest is a vulnerable ecosystem, since it faces the pressure of the use of its resources, which makes it more prone to being degraded. In turn, the owners of these ecosystems are usually in most cases small producers, who do not see value in their forests due to the different limitations. The data, which resulted from the implementation of the project, were disseminated in materials that could demonstrate the value of secondary forests. The implementation of this BWP Project-based Activity contributed to achieve the expected outputs described here above while contributing to lead to some intended changes for the benefit of stakeholders, that can mainly be summarized as follows:

- Development of new timber products and identification of potential market niches with the abovementioned selected timber species identified in secondary forests located in four zones within the target area of Costa Rica.
- Involvement of women and youth in the forest value chain through capacities which had been built as a way to improve the livelihoods of small landholders and increase the productivity of secondary forests in Costa Rica.
- Improvement of local economy in rural areas by the use of processing, innovation and development technologies in relation to the abovementioned selected timber species identified in secondary forests located in four zones within the target area of Costa Rica.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

The main lessons learnt for a smooth implementation of the BWP Project-base Activity PP-A/59-353 could be summarized as follows:

- In the physical environment, activities had been always carried out in the project target regions, in open and academic spaces, so that the beneficiary actors felt an atmosphere of neutrality. This showed openness to sharing experiences and validating the information and results through a participatory approach involving relevant stakeholders,
- Cultural aspects had been taken into consideration during the different stages of the project implementation, through consultations with relevant local stakeholders, producers and timber processors to determine their training needs in the management, conservation and restoration of secondary forests, as well as in the value chain of these secondary forests.

Regarding the sustainability of the achievements of the BWP Project-base Activity PP-A/59-353, it could be ensured through some special arrangements of cooperation, negotiated with relevant Costa Rican government-related entities for continuing to promote the main achievements of this BWP Project-based Activity, such as:

- Cooperation agreement with the National Learning Institute (INA) for the generation of technical and managerial capacities, specifically in the area of the furniture industry (cabinetmaking, design, use of machinery, installation and finishes with wood) using the abovementioned timber species identified in secondary forests.
- Implementation of the seedbed of companies in the forestry sector from the Forestry Chamber Wood and Industry for the validation of exportable capacity through the application of the "Export Test" of the Foreign Trade Promotion Office of Costa Rica (PROCOMER) and the advice on exports.
- Roadmap for the implementation of the commercial and market strategy with the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce (MEIC) in relation to the country's development plans for placing the wood products from secondary forests in local and international markets.
- Continuation of talks for training sessions and forums for the dissemination of main project results and achievements through academia institutions and small and associations of medium-sized timber producers in Costa Rica.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The ITTO Secretariat has received the completion report and four technical reports, as well as a satisfactory final financial audit report, thus the Committee may wish to declare the BWP Project-based Activity PP-A/59-353 [CN-21004] as duly completed. Reports and outreach products produced by the BWP Project-based Activity are available from the project search tool on the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PP-A_59-353-CN-21004.