

Lucy Amissah Principal Research scientist

CSIR-Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, P.O. Box UP63, Kumasi, Ghana

Email: lamissah@csir-forig.org.gh

60th Session of the International Council of ITTO (ITTC-60)Yokohama Japan, 2-6 December` 2024





Purpose of Evaluation

- The primary purpose was to conduct an in-depth evaluation of the completed forest fire projects to determine the following:
- Successful, unsuccessful outcomes, the reasons for successes and failures.
- The contribution of the projects towards the achievement of sustainable forest management.





The scope of the evaluation focused on

- Analysis and assessment of the projects.
- Provision of a synthesis on the overall role and meaningful contribution of the projects in achieving Integrated Fire Management and Sustainable Forest Management.
- Evaluation of the overall impact, effectiveness of the projects, appropriateness of the costs and use of resources within the projects.
- Provide conclusions and recommendations.





Ex-Post Evaluation of Indonesia Forest Fire Project PP-A/56-340-1

Project title: Capacity Building on Forest and Land Fire Management in Indonesia

Consultant: Prof Bambang Hero Saharjo





Project Objective

The objective of the project was to reduce the occurrence of forest and land fires in targeted areas by strengthening capacity building in forest and land fire management and zero burning practices, and by increasing prevention activities with technology improvements and development of practical guidelines.





- Land preparation without burning were implemented.
- > Utilization of biomass waste from land preparation.
- Community group were supported to plant crops using no burning techniques and best agronomic practice.
- Establishment of demonstrations plots for land clearing activities without burning.
- Capacity of Fire Brigades (Manggala Agni) were developed through training.









Project Achievements/Findings

- Capacity (skills and equipment) of local actors were improved in safe wildfire suppression.
- The SMART Patrol Information System, which was first constructed under the project document solely for Sumatra and Kalimantan, is currently being improved and applied throughout Indonesia.
- Safety equipment (safety coats, safety shoes, portable fire water pumps, motorcycles, and a Global Positioning System) were provided.











- Based on the available data, the overall number of active fires detected by satellites ("hotspots") or the area burned during the project lifetime in the project regions were not significantly different from the preproject situation.
- However, awareness of the negative impacts of fire and the risk associated with fire use has increased proving the groundwork for upscaling.





- Planting could not be continued dues to land tenure issues.
- > Occasional political conflict at the village level.
- Lack of consensus between farmers and local administrative authority on the selection of crops to be planted.
- Land use changes due to administrative directives.
- The project duration was not enough to change completely people's attitude and behavior towards the use of fire.





- Future projects should focus on concepts of wildfire prevention and the replacement of fire use in land cultivation by alternative methods.
- In future projects, parties to be included should range from local communities, village, sub-district, district, city and province levels to the central government.
- There is the need for strong stakeholder consultation. The President instrument No 3/2020 on Forest and Land Fire Management provide the basis for stakeholder engagement and coordination.





Ex-post Evaluation of PP-A/56-340-2-Peru

Forest Fire Prevention and Response in Tropical Forests and Forest Plantations in Peru

Consultant: Prof. Dr. María Isabel Manta Nolasco





- The specific objectives of the project were;
- To reduce the occurrence of forest fires by strengthening the capacities of national, regional, and local authorities in adopting forest fire prevention and response measures.
- To facilitate the management of forest fire information and early warning systems and provide training on forest regulations to the relevant institutions.





Project Achievements/Findings

- Awareness Campaigns: 593 people were engaged across five regions.
- Training: Conducted workshops on compositing and sustainable agronomic techniques.
- Satellite Monitoring: Advanced technology enabled detailed fire mapping and early warnings.
- Community Engagement: Encouraged compost use and reducing dependency on fire.





- The project has played a crucial role in supporting sustainable forest management by aiming to protect forest resources essential to local economies, ecosystem services, and biodiversity through promotion of alternatives to the use of fire.
- The project is connected to Peru's National Strategy on Forests and Climate Change, and the National Strategy to Combat Desertification and Drought 2026-2030.





- The project has fostered intersectoral collaboration which served as input for the development of the Multisectoral Plan for Forest Fires 2025-2027, which is aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the population and their livelihoods.
- Stakeholder Involvement: Early involvement of stakeholders ensures sustainable outcomes.
- Cultural Sensitivity: Strategies must align with local traditions.
- Monitoring: Continuous monitoring and evaluation enhanced the project impact.





- Delayed project execution due to bureaucratic hurdles.
- Inadequate field equipment and tools during training.
- Limited participation due to accessibility and language barriers.
- Poor documentation and dissemination of project results.
- Lack of implementation of early warning systems.





Recommendations

- Partnership: Strengthen partnerships among institutions for integrated fire management and long-term impact.
- Institutional Strengthening: Improve SERFOR's coordination and technical capacity.
- Build Local Capacity: Train and equip communities with fire management skills.
- Leverage Technology: Scale up satellite monitoring and integrate early warning systems.
- Amplify Awareness: Focus on localized and culturally relevant outreach campaigns.





In addition to projects with specific duration, ITTO should consider to work through existing Wildland Fire Management Networks in member countries to ensure sustainability of programmes /activities that are developed and piloted under ITTO funded fire related projects.



Thank You

