

## **Call for papers on experiences in community-based forest industry**

The ITTO Secretariat invites the submission of papers describing experiences in community-based forest industry development in the production of one or more of the following products: i) timber and timber products; ii) non-timber forest products; and iii) forest-related environmental services. It particularly encourages the submission of papers from local communities in tropical countries, and from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with such communities.

ITTO recognises that the development of a socially responsible, community-based forest industry could play a crucial role in the achievement of sustainable forest management in tropical countries and in reducing poverty in local communities. However, many communities lack the capacity to undertake industrial activities, including product processing and development, business management, marketing and gaining access to financial resources.

To address these problems and to promote socially responsible community-based forest industry, the International Tropical Timber Council approved, at its 36th session in July 2004, a study to identify and review experiences of about 20 community-based forest industries in ITTO producer countries. As part of the study, ITTO hereby invites papers from such communities and from other observers and stakeholders describing their experiences in developing community-based forest industry.

The study will also analyse opportunities for and constraints to the development of community-based forest industry, with a view to developing strategies that ITTO could adopt to assist producer countries in promoting community-based forest industry development in support of the sustainability of the tropical forest sector.

*For further information or to submit a paper, contact Dr Hwan Ok Ma in the ITTO Secretariat (ma@itto.or.jp). The deadline for the submission of papers is 31 March 2005.*

## **INRENA gets new chief**

Mr Leoncio Álvarez Vásquez became chief of INRENA last May, replacing D. César Álvarez Falcón, who had served in the post since 2003. Mr Álvarez Vásquez is from the region of Ancash and was previously Vice-minister of Fishing in the Ministry of Production.

*Reported by Fernando Rios*

## **Sustainable forest management working group agreed in Côte d'Ivoire**

Participants at a workshop organised within the framework of ITTO PROJECT PD 124/01 REV. 2 (M) in Abijan, Côte

d'Ivoire last July have agreed on the creation of a national working group for sustainable forest management and certification.

The workshop was attended by about 80 people representing a wide range of stakeholders, including government, forest industrialists, forest workers and community leaders. Five stakeholder groups—the forest administration, forest concessionaires, NGOs, local communities and research organisations—will be represented in the working group. It will be a non-profit association comprising a general assembly of 15 members (each group of stakeholders represented by three members), a technical committee of five members (one from each stakeholder group), a president and a technical coordinator. International NGOs and donor agencies will be able to attend working-group meetings as observers.

The objectives of the working group will be: to influence public opinion on the need for conserving the country's natural forests; to promote sustainable forest management and certification; and to develop synergies and partnerships between stakeholders. Some specific activities that would advance work towards these objectives were outlined. Workshop participants also called on donors to support the activities of the working group.

*Reported by Parfait Mimbimi Esono*

## **Regional restoration workshop series completed**

Participants in a series of six regional workshops believe that ITTO's *Guidelines on the restoration, management and rehabilitation of degraded and secondary tropical forests* are a valuable resource for explaining the concepts and strategies of forest landscape restoration.

The guidelines were published in 2002 as a policy tool for decision-makers, providing guidance on the approaches that could be taken and the actions that should be considered when embarking on forest landscape restoration.

Reporting on the outcomes of the workshops at the 36th session of the International Tropical Timber Council, Intercooperation's James Gasana said that the aims of the workshop series were to promote an understanding of the guidelines, receive feedback on them, and encourage further regional or country-level initiatives in forest restoration and secondary forest management. He said that participants generally recognised that the guidelines are filling a knowledge gap and were successful in clarifying the concepts and strategies of degraded forest restoration and land rehabilitation. They also recognised that the guidelines could be adapted to the conditions and realities of their own countries and should be incorporated in national forestry programs and action plans.

In collaboration with a range of partners and using feedback from the workshop series as a guide, ITTO is now preparing a handbook that will help practitioners to apply forest landscape restoration in the field. After its publication in 2005, ITTO will convene a series of ten national-level workshops to introduce the handbook to field workers and policymakers in the tropics.

ITTO is also a major sponsor of the forthcoming international workshop on forest landscape restoration, which will be held in Brazil next year (see page 30 for contact details).