



**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

Distr.
GENERAL

CRF(LIX)/3
2 October 2025

Original: ENGLISH

FIFTY-NINTH SESSION
27-31 October 2025
Panama City, Panama

REPORT ON
PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS
IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT

**PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT WORK IN PROGRESS
IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

A total of seventeen (17) approved projects and two (2) BWP project-based activities are currently under implementation. There are two (2) BWP project-based activities awaiting the signing of an agreement to initiate activities. There are six (6) approved projects and pre-projects still awaiting full financing. In this report, the projects are grouped into four categories:

- A. Projects and Pre-projects in Implementation;
- B. BWP Project-based Activities in Implementation;
- C. Projects, Pre-projects, and BWP Project-based Activities Awaiting Implementation Agreement; and
- D. Projects and Pre-projects Awaiting Financing

A. PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS IN IMPLEMENTATION

- (1) PD 712/13 Rev.3 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra, Indonesia – Phase I**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	492,014
ITTO Budget:		US\$	250,000
Government of Republic of Korea	US\$	250,000	
Government of Indonesia		US\$	11,424
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners		US\$	230,590
Implementing Agency:	Agency for Standardization of Environment and Forestry Instruments (ASEFI)		
Period of Approval:	Rev.3: Approved in September 2021		
Starting Date and Duration:	April 2023 / Phase I - 24 months		
Approved Revised Date of Project Completion:	First Extension until 30 September 2025 (NOL F25-0006)		

The project was approved in the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and later received an extension at the request of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, in accordance with ITTO regulations. Partial funding was secured from the Republic of Korea (\$100,000) during ITTC 54 in November 2018, and an additional \$150,000 during ITTC 55 in December 2019.

The Implementing Agency subsequently divided the project into Phase I and Phase II to align with available funding for immediate implementation. The revised proposal was approved in September 2021 through the online no-objection procedure. The project agreement for Phase I was finalized in December 2022, with the first instalment of project funds disbursed in April 2023 following the necessary administrative arrangements.

The Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) covering approximately 705,000 ha in the Riau province, Sumatra, was designated a public-private partnership biosphere reserve by the UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves in 2009.

The project's primary goal is to strengthen the framework for sustainable management and conservation of GSK-BR. It addresses several key challenges, including the lack of an integrated strategic management plan, weak institutional capacity for biosphere reserve implementation, and low community participation in management operations.

By 2024, the project had made significant progress in the following implementations:

- Conducted focus group discussions with key stakeholders on the planning framework of GSK-BR. Key outcomes included the need for collaboration, accurate mapping, and robust data management for a more sustainable planning framework. Stakeholders also emphasized the importance of periodic monitoring and evaluation to achieve continuous improvement.
- Published an article, "BSILHK Starts New Action for Landscape-Based Protection in the Giam Siak Kecil Biosphere Reserve, Involving All Stakeholders," in several media, including Agro Indonesia, Suara Karya.co.id, Forest Insight, Riau Antra News, and more.
- Developed the "Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (2024-2028) plan" in January 2024, which focused on biodiversity conservation, sustainable development, and research support. The reserve is divided into core, buffer, and transition zones, each with distinct management goals. Key challenges include deforestation, illegal logging, and peatland fires. The Integrated Management Plan proposes actions to be implemented collaboratively between the government, private sector, and local communities to address multiple objectives. The reserve also aims to enhance eco-tourism and sustainable livelihoods while strengthening water management and fire prevention efforts.
- In June 2024, the updated report of the bio-physical and socio-economic data on the GSK-BR was published, detailing both ecological and socio-economic data. The report highlighted several critical challenges, including habitat loss, deforestation, and threats to wildlife, particularly endangered species such as Sumatran tigers and elephants, due to land conversion. It recorded over 200 plant species and 172 bird species, emphasizing the urgent need for biodiversity conservation. Human activities, including illegal logging, impact the ecosystem. Recommendations include reforestation, wildlife corridors, sustainable livelihoods, and fire prevention strategies. Collaborative management and community-based conservation programs are key to balancing development with environmental protection.
- From December 2023 to January 2024, the Riau Region FKKM consortium led a series of dialogues with stakeholders in 15 villages across 8 sub-districts in two regencies (Siak and Bengkalis) to raise awareness of the - benefits of the designation of the area as a biosphere reserve.-and surrounding areas, Through the Focus Group Discussion (FGD)s, several income-generating activities were identified, including cattle farming,(which showed high market demand)), beekeeping for honey production, and organic rice cultivation. Other potential income sources included woven handicrafts and fish farming.

(2) PD 764/14 Rev.3 (F) Enabling Customary Landowners to Participate Effectively in Community Forest Management Schemes Within 6 Pilot Areas of PNG

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	668,313
ITTO Budget:	US\$	606,313
Government of Japan:	US\$	606,313
Government of PNG:	US\$	62,000

Implementing Agency: PAPUA NEW GUINEA FOREST AUTHORITY

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in March 2017

Starting Date and Duration: March 2020 / 36 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First Extension until 31 May 2023 (NOL F22-0037)
Second Extension until 30 November 2023 (NOL F23-0022)

The revised project document, which was adjusted to accommodate a reduced budget, was approved in March 2017. Financing for the project was secured in the same year. The project agreement was duly signed in February 2019 after a lengthy in-country consultation process, and project implementation officially commenced in March 2020.

The project aims to enhance sustainable forest management practices through improved community livelihoods and social stability. Specifically, it seeks to establish a model for community-based land ownership mapping and forest resource assessment to support community forest management (CFM) initiatives, including payment for ecosystem services (PES) and REDD+, while increasing landowners' understanding of the goods and services provided by their forests. Project activities were implemented in collaboration with 6 partners.

The project has delivered four specific outputs: i) participatory data collection technology for improving CFM practices at community, district and provincial levels; ii) clan groups participating in the National Land Development Program; iii) a data management system engaging landowners in feasible CFM schemes (including PES and REDD+); and iv) policy and planning guidelines for CFM in place.

All activities have been completed, and a completion report was submitted to the Secretariat in May 2024. The project developed a "Community Foresters Tool Kit" containing all materials developed including data collection forms, training and awareness resources and technical reports. The tool kit is available at www.pip.com.pg/resources/community-foresters-tool-kit/welcome.html. Other communication products have been placed in a common drive for stakeholders' use at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WarSK9TTLx5muvj6N6MLEEeffNOyf3Tn?usp=sharing>. Other reports and materials produced under the project, including a TFU article are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PD764_14-Rev.3-F.

Due to a lack of response by the executing agency to several reminders on the submission of the project final audit, on 2 June 2025, ITTO issued an official letter informing Papua New Guinea Forest Authority that the project will be recommended for termination at ITTC-61 based on violation of article 5.03 of the project agreement. The executing agency submitted a financial audit report for the period of 1 January 2023 to 19 April 2024 on 28 August 2025, which has been reviewed by the ITTO Secretariat and found unsatisfactory. Thus, the Secretariat would like to recommend the termination of this project

(3) PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) Conservation of African Barwood (*Pterocarpus Erinaceus Poir*) in the Gazetted Forests of La Palee and Boundiali in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of Local Communities - Phase I

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	828,718
ITTO Budget:	US\$	566,488
Government of Japan:	US\$	320,000
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	262,230

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (SOCIÉTÉ DE DÉVELOPPEMENT DES FORÊTS—SODEFOR)

Period of Approval: Rev.5: Approved in March 2023

Starting Date and Duration: December 2023 / 24 months (for Phase I)

The first approval of this 36-month project was in September 2019 through the electronic approval system for the project cycle of 2019. This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project, in 2021. The project was partially financed with an amount of US\$320,000 thanks to the generous contribution of Japan during the inter-session period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59. As the project was partially funded, it was revised into a phased project, which was approved in March 2023, with the Phase 1 to be implemented with the abovementioned amount. The Project Agreement governing Phase 1 of project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) was signed by all parties in September 2023, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds made in December 2023 after the reception by the ITTO Secretariat of an acceptable Inception Report and its associated Detailed Work Plan.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of the African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) ecosystems in Côte d'Ivoire in the Bagoué region. The project specifically intends to safeguard the African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) in the Gazetted Forests of Palée and Boundiali in the Bagoué region of northern Côte d'Ivoire. There are three expected outputs of the project: (1) the processes of African barwood propagation are understood and mastered; (2) The use of African barwood is sustainable and under control; and (3) Bushfire outbreaks are under control.

Since the beginning of the project implementation and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report and monthly highlights regularly submitted by the executing agency, progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The joint teams of SODEFOR and the Peleforo Gon Coulibaly University (UPGC) were deployed in the field to collect data and information, during the ethnobotanical study on the regeneration of the species *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, associated with a forest inventory aimed at assessing the richness of the two Gazetted Forests (Palée and Boundiali) in *Pterocarpus erinaceus*. This joint mission was also used to identify "tree-plus" from which samples (seeds, cuttings, etc.) are taken for germination tests in the nursery and propagation in the laboratory,
- The samples, which were taken from these "tree-plus", are being analysed for morphological and molecular characterisation to determine whether the different phenotypes observed are related to genomic variability.
- In the two Gazetted Forests (Palée and Boundiali), six soil pits were dug to collect soil samples for analysis, in order to study the correlation between soil quality and the spatial distribution of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*.
- After the seed germination tests, which showed an 81% success rate and a 100% survival rate of the seedlings, the tests of vegetative propagation and stem fragmentation cuttings are being carried out in collaboration with the Peleforo Gon Coulibaly University (UPGC).
- Priority was given to the maintenance and protection of 103 hectares planted with the collaboration of local communities (83 ha with taungya system and 20 ha for wood energy) in the Gazetted Forest of La Palé,
- Continuation of the ethnobotanical surveys on traditional knowledge regarding the *Pterocarpus erinaceus* being carried out in the villages involved in the project implementation,
- Nine villages (Gbando, Guinguéréni, Kodjaga, Monongo, Blédjimini, Gbongaha, Notou, Séfrédjo and M'bia) bordering the Gazetted Forests of La Palé and Boundiali were sensitized during meetings held on the safeguarding of *Pterocarpus erinaceus*, with the promotion of forest management good practices,
- Four training sessions were organized in which 250 households benefited from the technique of making and using improved cookstoves, leading to the construction of 108 improved cookstoves,

- Five local committees for bushfire monitoring and control have been set up and their members have been trained and equipped, in order to ensure a better bushfire control campaign. These local committees are responsible for ensuring surveillance patrols in the two Gazetted Forests (Palée and Boundiali) from December, which marks the beginning of the dry season and the campaign against bushfires.

The ITTO Secretariat conducted a monitoring mission (second project steering committee meeting and field visits in selected project sites) from 29 September to 1 October 2025.

(4) PD 849/17 Rev.2 (F) Increasing Commercial Reforestation Competitiveness in Costa Rica

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	422,165
ITTO Budget:		US\$	335,765
Government of Japan:	US\$	235,765	
Government of USA:	US\$	100,000	
Government of Costa Rica:		US\$	86,400

Implementing Agency: COSTA RICAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, SCHOOL OF FORESTRY/RESEARCH CENTRE FOR FORESTRY INNOVATION (CIF)

Period of Approval: Rev.2: Approved in November 2020

Starting Date and Duration: June 2022 / 36 months

I. Introduction

The first approval of the project was in September 2018. The project was partially financed with an amount of USD100,000 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of the United States of America during ITTC 54 in November 2018, with an extension of its validity to November 2020. Additional funds of USD 235,765 were pledged by the Government of Japan during ITTC 57 in November 2021. The project agreement was duly signed in April 2022, and the first disbursement of funds was made in June 2022.

II. Project objective

The development objective of the project is to strengthen commercial reforestation in Costa Rica. The project specifically intends to increase the competitiveness of commercial reforestation by developing effective financing schemes for forest plantations, increase their productivity, and develop value-added timber products, which in turn will improve forest producers' income.

III. Project achievements and outputs

The project has completed all planned activities including tree species identification for commercial purposes and genetic improvement; identification of value-added timber products, the production and validation of prototypes for industry uptake; training on pest management conducted; maintenance of genetic improvement trials; publishing silvicultural manuals for melina and balsa wood; and validation of the financing schemes developed.

Outputs of the project, including promotional materials, a video and a published article in ITTO's *Tropical Forest Update* are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PD849_17-Rev.2-F.

IV. Outcomes and impacts

The project established a unified approach for solving longstanding issues of stagnated commercial reforestation and declining supply of domestic timber in Costa Rica by bringing together stakeholders and providing the needed tools for establishing successful forest plantations, bridging timber production with potential market opportunities and developing financial mechanism for their long-term viability.

V. Lessons learnt and sustainability

Participatory approaches, along with capacity building and technical assistance were crucial elements for successfully executing planned project activities. The commitment of the Government of Costa Rica in deploying the financial mechanisms developed will be instrumental for the achievement of the project's developing objective.

VI. Concluding remarks

At the time of preparation of this report, the executing agency submitted a draft completion report which is under review 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/PD849_17-Rev.2-F.

(5) **PD 903/19 Rev.3 (F) Management of Sungai Menyang Conservation Area for Orangutan Protection and Uplifting Community Livelihood, Sarawak, Malaysia**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	441,904
ITTO Budget:		US\$	261,904
Government of USA:	US\$	140,000	
Government of Australia:	US\$	121,904	
Government of Malaysia:		US\$	180,000
Implementing Agency:	FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK		
Period of Approval:	March 2024		
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months		

The project was approved in October 2020 and received partial funding of USD 121,903.50 from the Government of Australia in June 2022, with the remainder provided by the Government of the United States of America (USD 140,000) in November 2023. The implementing agency revised the project document based on the available funds, which was approved in March 2024, with the project agreement being duly signed in September 2024. The first instalment of funds was executed on 11 April 2025, marking the commencement of project activities.

The project's development objective is to enhance biodiversity conservation and rural economic transformation, and the specific objective is to improve community livelihood through sustainable use of forests and biological resources. These objectives will be achieved through three outputs: 1) a study to secure forest resource base for integrated management; 2) a process for effective ecosystem management and resource utilization; and 3) community participation in eco-tourism with improved facilities and training. Expected deliverables include: (a) forest resource base with well-defined and harmonized functions identified and secured, (b) orangutan raids on farm crops under control, (c) new activities for uplifting community livelihood initiated, (d) studies on carbon stocks in different forest types carried out and carbon trading

schemes developed, (e) nature and culture eco-tourism facilities improved, and (f) stakeholders' institutional arrangement for SMCA management established.

According to the first progress report, arrangements for the procurement of needed project materials, capital items was carried out along with a validation of the terms of reference prior engagement of relevant consultants. A briefing session with stakeholders was held in July 2025 followed by a stakeholder consultation in August 2025, involving communities, timber companies and an NGO working in the project area. Inputs were also gathered to update basic data of the status of the Sungai Menyang Conservation Area in southwestern Sarawak.

(6) PD 916/21 Rev.2 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Natural Forests in the Collective Afro-descendant Community Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	599,582
ITTO Budget:		US\$	450,000
Government of Japan (MoFA):	US\$	200,000	
Government of USA	US\$	250,000	
Government of Colombia – University of Tolima:		US\$	102,152
Community Council of the Bajo Calima Black Ethnic Group:		US\$	47,430

Implementing Agency: UNIVERSITY OF TOLIMA - COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE BAJO CALIMA BLACK ETHNIC GROUP

Collaborating Agency: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Period of Approval: Rev.2: Approved in March 2023

Starting Date and Duration: November 2024 / 24 months

The first approval of this project was in September 2019. The project was partially financed with an amount of USD 200,000 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan during the inter-sessional period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59, and the amount of USD 250,000 secured from the Government of the United States of America in two tranches (USD 150,000 at ITTC 57 and USD 100,000 at ITTC 58). As the project was partially funded, with the amount of US\$450,000 out of US\$578,185, it was revised to reduce the ITTO budget to the available funds by adjusting planned project activities. The revised project was approved in March 2023, planning implementation in two stages as follows:

- Phase 1 of 12 months with the ITTO budget of USD 200,000 from the Japan's supplementary budget (with the compulsory pre-condition to use the funds of the Japan's supplementary budget within a period not exceeding 12 months (i.e. no later than until March 2024). However, due to an extensive delay in the signature of the project agreement an extension was granted until December 2024 by the Government of Japan, with a second and last extension to 30 June 2025.
- Phase 2 of 12 months with the ITTO budget of USD 250,000 from the United States' contribution through ITTO project regular cycle.

This proposal stems from a recommendation of a previous ITTO Project—PD 415/06 Rev. 2 (M)—“Systematization and modelling of economic and technical information to train professionals related to the

production, processing and marketing of timber products". The project intends to contribute to the implementation of management, conservation, and restoration programs for the strategic ecosystems of the Colombian Pacific region based on enrichment planting and agroforestry systems established under a sustainable management approach. Specifically, the project aims to launch a participatory process helping to raise the living standards of the communities with a gender focus to achieve sustainable management of secondary natural forests and collective lands in Bajo Calima, Republic of Colombia.

The project agreement was duly signed in August 2024, and the first disbursement of funds was done in November 2024.

At the time of drafting this report the following progress can be reported:

- Activities under output 1, "Agroforestry systems and secondary forest enrichment lines established under pilot plots" demarcated of 35 hectares for enrichment plots, along with production of 10,000 seedlings and conducted land preparation for planting.
- Activities under output 2, "Training of community leaders and farmers on community forest management and sustainable use of natural resources" developed training materials, conducted training of trainers for almost 90 trainers including teachers, community leaders and women, 10 workshops conducted with attendance of 150 participants.
- Activities under output 3, "Action-oriented research programme designed and implemented" the establishment of secondary forest enrichment lines was completed and adopted, as well as the involvement of forestry undergraduate and master students.

Phase one of the project completed activities at the end of June 2025 and at the time of preparation of this report the executing agency submitted a draft completion report for the first phase, which is under review by the Secretariat. The second phase has rolled-on immediately after completion of the first one. Outputs of the project are available at www.itto.int/project/id/PD916_21-Rev.2-F.

(7) PD 927/22 Rev.2 (F) Development of an Information System on the Potential of Wood and Carbon to Support Sustainable Forest Management in South Kalimantan, Indonesia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	268,320
ITTO Budget:		US\$	233,300
Government of USA:	US\$	150,300	
Government of Australia:	US\$	83,000	
Government of South Kalimantan:		US\$	35,020

Implementing Agency: Regional Planning Board of South Kalimantan (BAPPEDA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia

Period of Approval: August 2023

Starting Date and Duration: August 2024 / 30 months

The project, originated from the concept note (CN-21002/CN-523), obtained approval through the online no-objection procedures in August 2023. Currently, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry is in the process of reviewing the draft project agreement. The project aims to enhance the planning and monitoring sustainable forest management practices in South Kalimantan, Indonesia. Specifically, the project is to establish a comprehensive information and database system on wood production potential and carbon

emission/sequestration to facilitate decision-making, identify opportunities and monitor the progress of sustainable forest management in South Kalimantan. The development of a robust information system on the potential of wood production and carbon sequestration is crucial for advancing sustainable forest management in South Kalimantan, where the timber industry is important for economic growth, value-added products, and export potential. This system will play an important role to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, leading to more sustainable forest management practices. This could also lead to the development of new forest-based industries, job creation, and income generation for local communities.

To ensure the effective achievement of sustainable forest management in South Kalimantan, the project seeks to delivering three outputs:

- 1) Strengthening the data and information collection system to assess changes in forest cover, forest growth, carbon stocks, wood production, and social information as a solid foundation for sustainable forest management.
- 2) Improving the wood and carbon information systems to support decision-making tools and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track progress towards achieving sustainable forest management goals.
- 3) Enhancing the coordination of SFM policy information network systems with engagement of forest managers, policymakers, local communities, academics and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate the dissemination of essential information and engagement of key stakeholders in sustainable forest management process.

The signing process of the Project Agreement was completed in July 2024 whereas the 1st installment of the project budget to the Executing Agency was completed in August 2024. Until the reporting date, the project has made some progresses, especially for the activities of the Output 1.

Progress of Outputs 1's activities

Outputs and Activities	Percentage executed	Original planned completion date	Estimated completion date
Output 1: Strengthening the data and information collection system to assess changes in forest cover, forest growth, carbon stocks, wood production, social information and others as a solid foundation for sustainable forest management.			
Activity 1.1 To organize two focus group discussions on planning framework for the establishment of a robust data and information system for SFM involving concerned authorities and the Information-Aware Community (IAC)			
Dissemination of the final results of activity 1.1	50 %	March 2025	July 2025
Establishment of the Community Information Care Group (IAC)	100%	February 2025	-
Training for the Community-based Information for data updates on-site.	0 %	July 2025	August 2025
Activity 1.2 To review the performance of the existing permanent sample plots (PSP) and reconstruct six PSPs (4 in natural forests and 2 in plantation forests) with a detailed survey list forest cover, forest growth, carbon stocks, wood production, social information and others			
Routine maintenance of the PSP area	100%	March 2025	July2025
Dissemination of the final results of activity 1.2	50 %	March 2025	July 2025
Training in building PSP, desk analysis, carbon data processing and analysis	0 %	July 2025	August 2025

Activity 1.3 To establish a data and information system for the targeted PSPs with development of standard operating procedures for conduction of management operations by difference stakeholders and establish community units/groups at the site level to help update the latest data on forest conditions.			
Development of Data and Information System	100%	March 2025	April 2025
Dissemination of the final results of activity 1.3	50 %	March 2025	July 2025
Database processing training for information system data and its development	0 %	July 2025	August 2025

Project activities, such as training, particularly those related to the achievement of activities 1.1, 1.2, and 1.3, were delayed due to the restructuring of the PD927/22 project bank account. This was in accordance with a request from the Directorate General of Forestry Planning, Ministry of Forestry as the executing agency (EA), to align the PD 927/22 project's financial system with the financial system established by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia. Nevertheless, project activities generally proceeded according to plan, with strong support from the South Kalimantan Regional Government and the Ministry of Forestry, as well as good collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

The Executing Agency has submitted to the Secretariat in August 2025 a project progress report covering activities to June 2024 which is available on request (English only).

(8) PD 931/23 (F) Promoting SFM and Local Wood Consumption through Capacity Building and Improving Regulation in the North Zone, Costa Rica

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	198,260
ITTO Budget:		US\$	138,260
Government of Korea:	US\$	138,370	
CODEFORSA:		US\$	60,000

Implementing Agency: San Carlos Forestry Development Commission Association (CODEFORSA)

Period of Approval: August 2023

Starting Date and Duration: January 2024 / 24 months

The project derived from the concept note CN-21005 which received an expression of interest by the Republic Korea at ITTC 58 in November 2022. The project document was approved in August 2023, the project agreement was duly signed in November 2024 and the project commenced implementation in January 2024 with the first disbursement of funds.

The project's development objective is to contribute to the conservation of forest resources and biodiversity through sustainable management of forests and increased income of forest owners in northern Costa Rica, a region that produces most of the country's wood. The project's specific objective is the promotion of sustainable forest management through capacity development of forest owners, improved regulations and procedures, and increased demand for local wood.

At the time of preparation of this report, progress is reported as follows:

- Activities under output 1 "Strengthen the knowledge of SFM of owners, Maleku territory and public officials: a personalized forest management pilot plan will be developed in five units", the project

assisted with the formulation of 3 sustainable forest management plans which have been approved by the relevant authority; silvicultural assessment for 85 hectares in the indigenous Maleku territory is ongoing.

- Activities under output 2 “Improving regulation, procedures and historical records”, a guide to unify regulations, formalities and government approvals under Costa Rica’s National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC) has been published as is now available on SINAC’s website; a training workshop on forestry regulations and procedures was carried out in November 2024 followed by ongoing coordination activities among the executing agency and the SINAC’s regional forestry offices in the Conservation Area of Arenal Huertar Norte to promote standardization of forestry-related procedures; analysis of forestry legislation and data has just started.
- Activities under output 3 “Enhancing owner’s capabilities in SFM and marketing” surveys and interviews are ongoing with forest industries to obtain input for the market report to be delivered under this output.

Activities under output 4 have not yet commence. Project reports and communications materials produced so far are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PD931_23-F.

(9) PD 932/23 (F) Assessment and Dissemination of Knowledge and Experience for Ex-Situ Conservation and Plantation of Caoba in Northern Coastal Area, Peru

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	123,294
ITTO Budget:		US\$	84,784
Government of Korea:	US\$	84,784	
COSTA VERDE:		US\$	38,510

Implementing Agency: COSTA VERDE INICIATIVA 20X20

Period of Approval: August 2023

Starting Date and Duration: November 2023 / 12 months

The project derived from the concept note CN-22014 which received an expression of interest by the Republic of Korea at ITTC 58 in November 2022. The project document was approved in August 2023, the project agreement was duly signed in November 2023 and the project commenced implementation in the same month.

Caoba also known as mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King), which grows in the tropical rainforest, is of great commercial value, but is now listed as an endangered species on CITES appendices. Peru was a major exporter of the species in the 1990s but now imports it. The project’s development objective is to promote the conservation and sustainable use of endangered Caoba in the Northern coastal area of Peru. The project’s specific objective is to conduct a comprehensive analysis of successful experiences and valuable lessons learned from *ex-situ* conservation and plantations of Caoba in this region.

Progress can be reported as follows:

- Activities under output 1 “Collection, review and systematize the available secondary information”: at the time of drafting this report, the project examined the *ex-situ* conservation and cultivation of Caoba in semi-arid areas along the northern coast of Peru, including Vista Florida Farm, INAGRO, CHOCOCAL, El Olmos-Los Cedros Farm; these experiences were synthesized and published, thus disseminating the knowledge and experiences gained by pioneering practitioners. Physical-

mechanical properties of wood from mahogany plantations were conducted, showing promising results.

- Activities under outputs 2 and 3 “Expanding interest of government and businesses for investing in Caoba conservation and plantation and enhancing social interest in Caoba conservation and plantation” were merged including a regional workshop held in July 2024, with support from the regional government of Lambayeque, that stimulated interest among government and businesses in investing in mahogany conservation and cultivation and enhance wider awareness of the issue.

A field monitoring visit was conducted in May 2025 which attested that mahogany plantations can be established in the northern coast of Peru, and that if adequately replicated could be a source of income in the region. In mid-July 2025 the Secretariat issue a no-objection letter to the executing agency for producing a video that summarizes *ex-situ* conservation experiences of Caoba for further dissemination, being this the only remaining project activity. At the time of preparation of this report, a video to disseminate the outputs of the project was under production, the executive agency submitted a draft completion report, which was revised by the ITTO Secretariat who provided feedback to the executive agency for its finalization.

Project reports and communications materials produced so far are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PD932_23-F.

(10) PD 934/23 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening the Conservation of the Critically Endangered Rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*) in Dakrong Nature Reserve and Dong Nai Conservation Landscape, Vietnam

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	160,826
ITTO Budget:		US\$	148,976
Government of Australia:	US\$	100,000	
Government of USA:	US\$	48,976	
CCD:		US\$	11,850

Implementing Agency: CENTER FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CCD)

Period of Approval: October 2023

Starting Date and Duration: April 2024 / 24 months

The project, originated from the concept note (CN-21007), received approval through the online no-objection procedures in October 2023. In terms of funding, the project secured US\$48,976 from the USA in October 2022 and an additional US\$100,000 from Australia in June 2023. Currently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is in the process of reviewing the draft project agreement.

The project aims to significantly enhance the long-term conservation of the threatened rosewood species in Vietnam by actively engaging local communities in the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of *D. oliveri* and *D. cochinchinensis* populations in Dakrong nature reserve and Dong Nai conservation landscape. The critically endangered Tamalan (*Dalbergia oliveri*) and Siamese rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*) are currently among the most threatened plants in Vietnam. Due to high demand from trade and illegal logging for a long time, the wild populations of these two species have been reduced dramatically and are locally extinct in many known distribution areas. The remaining populations are small, fragmented, and mainly distributed in protected areas, but they lack effective conservation efforts.

This project outcomes will be achieved through building the capacity of forest rangers, protected areas personnel, and local communities in forest protection, the conservation of endangered plants, and sustainable forest management. It will also develop and implement a comprehensive management and conservation plan for *D. oliveri* and *D. cochinchinensis*. Furthermore, it will implement measures to restore rosewood populations through natural regeneration and replanting in degraded habitats. The Government of Vietnam will benefit from the preservation and restoration of rosewood populations as well as capacity building of relevant personnel. The successful models developed during this project will also be replicated in other protected areas and with other threatened plant species.

The project has been officially started since April 2024. Until the reporting date, the project has made the following progresses:

Under the **Activity 1.1**, the project team conducted two field surveys on the population distribution, abundance to map the key population and mature trees of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *Dalbergia oliveri* in Dakrong NR and Dong Nai CNR. While *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* was found with very few saplings within the Dakrong NR, hundred mature trees are distributed outside of the natural forest, which are located in crop fields own by local community. In the Dong Nai CNR, a viable population of *Dalbergia oliveri* were found with mature individuals and many saplings and seedlings.

Findings of the field survey in Dakrong NR were presented in technical meetings with representatives from Quang Tri Forest Protection Department (FPD), Huong Hoa and Dakrong District FPD, and Quang Tri Special-use Forest Management board, representatives from five communes in buffer zone of Dakrong NR under the **Activity 1.2**. It is noted that Dakrong district is adjacent to Huong Hoa district. In March, the Dakrong Nature Reserve (NR) management board and Bac Huong Hoa NR management board (Huong Hoa district) are combined to form one management board named Quang Tri Special-use Forest (SUF) Management board. A similar meeting was held to disseminate detailed information of *Dalbergia oliveri* population in Dong Nai CNR to stakeholders of Dong Nai province in May 2025.

In **Activity 2.1**, two training workshops on endangered plants conservation were organized for forest rangers and forestry technical staff of Quang Tri (including Huong Hoa and Dakrong FPD staff, forest rangers of Dakrong and Bac Huong Hoa NR, and technical staffs of Quang Tri SUF management board), Dong Nai (Dong Nai CNR, Tan Phu Protection Forest etc.) and Binh Phuoc province (now merged to Dong Nai province). The training topics focused on identifying some threatened plants in the field; survey and monitoring methods for threatened plants; sharing experience from plant conservation projects of CCD and Center for Plant Conservation (CPC); nursery establishment and maintenance; and developing a plant conservation project.

In **Activity 2.2**, we conducted training on nursery development and maintenance, nursery techniques and seedling production focusing on rosewood species for local communities of Ba Nang and Dakrong communes of Dakrong district and forestry staff of Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc (now merged to Dong Nai province). After the training, some of them were engaged in nursery maintenance activities such as filling tree pots, transplanting individual seedlings from tree bed to pots, taking care of seedlings...

Under **Activity 3.1**, management and conservation plans for *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* in Quang Tri and *Dalbergia oliveri* in Dong Nai were drafted and presented at consultation meetings with the participation of representatives from Quang Tri and Dong Nai forestry authorities.

In the **Activity 3.2**, two nurseries were established in community land and have been maintained by local people of Dong Nai and Quang Tri provinces. The nursery in Dong Nai is producing at least 6000 seedlings of *Dalbergia oliveri* while as the one in Quang Tri is producing at least 2500 seedlings of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*.

During these reporting period, the Project has identified approximately 12 ha of degraded forest in Dong Nai Culture and Nature Reserve to be applied assisted natural regeneration measures including herbaceous controlling and forest enrichment. In the next quarters, rosewood seedlings will be planted to

these areas to enrich forest values and restore rosewood population in its natural range. These interventions belong to **Activity 3.3** and **Activity 3.4**.

Mature trees of *Dalbergia oliveri* in Dong Nai and *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* in Quang Tri, which were identified from the field survey, have been monitoring by local people and technical staffs of Dong Nai and Quang Tri Protected areas under the **Activity 3.5**.

The Executing Agency has submitted to the Secretariat in August 2025 a project progress report covering activities to June 2025 which is available on request (English only).

(11) PD 945/25 (F) Emergency Actions to Secure Forest Conservation and Livelihoods of Traditional Communities in the Brazilian Federal Conservation Unit Verde Para Sempre (Brazil)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	294.475
ITTO Budget:		US\$	149.877
Government of Brazil:	US\$	144,598	

Implementing Agency: Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária Amazônia Oriental (Embrapa)

Starting Date and Duration: July 2025 / 12 months

The present project proposal aims to support traditional communities and civil society—in cooperation with government entities—in the protection of a significant area of tropical rain forest in the Brazilian Amazon. The unit Verde para Sempre is being threatened by increasing illegal logging activities and man-made fires. The intent is to increase presence of stakeholders in the conservation unit by upgrading logistics, improving monitoring, enhancing community organizational skills and communications, and increasing the understanding of sustainability.

The project was funded in April 2024 thanks to the generous contribution of the Government of Japan from its emergency funding budget. The project agreement was signed in June 2025, and the first installment of funds was done on 29 July 2025 after satisfactory submission of the project inception report, marking the commencement of the project.

(12) PD 946/25 (F) Capacity Building for the Restoration of the SOTA GOUNGOUN Forest Complex and Climate Change Mitigation in Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	276,700
ITTO Budget:		US\$	225,000
Government of Benin:	US\$	51,300	

Implementing Agency: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING (DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE DES EAUX, FORÊTS ET CHASSE—DGEFC)

Collaborating Agency: INITIATIVE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF LIFE - IPV-NGO
(INITIATIVE POUR LA PRÉSERVATION DE LA VIE – ONG-IPV)

Starting Date and Duration: July 2025 / 12 months

The project was developed through Japan's Supplementary Budget Programme, with the aim to provide Benin with pressing technical and financial assistance to address the alarming and rapid degradation of the Sota-Goungoun Gazetted Forest Complex, as its condition has deteriorated at an unprecedented rate, mainly due to insecurity and excessive utilization of most of its valuable forest resources and wildlife species, both terrestrial and aquatic. The funds were made available by the Government of Japan for the project implementation period from April 2025 to March 2026. The project Agreement was signed on 13 June 2025 by all project parties, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in July 2025 after the reception by the ITTO Secretariat of an acceptable Inception Report and its associated Detailed Work Plan.

The project aims to ensure environmental sustainability, improve local livelihoods and increase the resilience of the forest ecosystem through improved management practices, community engagement, enhanced security measures and sustainable strategies. Focusing on these outcomes, the project aims to halt the degradation of the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex, which has been accelerated by insecurity caused by armed terrorist groups, with the aim of reversing the negative trend of degradation and initiate the progressive restoration of the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex in line with ITTO's Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics. The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex in Benin. The project's specific objective is to build capacity for the restoration and sustainable management of the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex. There are three expected outputs of the project: (1) Tools for sustainable and participatory management of the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex have been developed and are implemented; (2) Monitoring capacities have been enhanced in the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex; and (3) Organizational capacities have been strengthened among local communities in the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex.

Since the beginning of the project implementation and in accordance with the project's most recent monthly highlight submitted by the executing agency (DGEFC), progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- After the signing of the Agreement governing the implementation of this project and before the transfer of the first tranche of ITTO funds required for starting its implementation, the executing agency (DGEFC) and the collaborating agency (NGO-IPV) have anticipatively launched some activities dependent on the great rainy season, such as the establishment of the nursery for the production of tree seedlings needed for the restoration of degraded forest landscapes in the Sota-Goungoun Forest Complex, on sites that will be identified in a participatory manner by the project stakeholders,
- Orders for materials and equipment have been launched as well as the recruitment processes for consultants who will be the subject of a no objection request from the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) samples,
- The executing agency (DGEFC) and the collaborating agency (NGO-IPV) have deployed their qualified staff to start the awareness and mobilization campaign around the objectives of this project, in order to ensure the support of stakeholders, including local communities, during the project implementation.

The ITTO Secretariat conducted a monitoring mission (first project steering committee meeting and field visits in selected project sites) from 22 to 24 September 2025.

(13) PP-A/56-342A Strengthening SFM Standards and Timber Legality Framework in Myanmar

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	518,790
ITTO Budget:		US\$	378,930
Government of Japan:	US\$	378,930	
MFCC (in-kind):		US\$	139,860

Implementing Agency: Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC)

Starting Date and Duration: February 2021 / 24 months

Approved Revised Date of First Extension until 31 January 2024 (NOL F23-0018)

Project Completion: Second Extension until 31 March 2024 (NOL F24-0003)

Third Extension until 31 December 2025 (NOL F25-0043)

The project agreement was duly signed in January 2021 and the implementing agency commenced project activities in February 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of some activities was delayed, and the duration of the project was extended until the end of March 2024.

The project intends to address the challenges Myanmar faces with market access for timber and on the continued improvement of Myanmar Forest Certification System (MFCS), and Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS).

According to the executing agency's completion report submitted in July 2024, key accomplishments included the launch of forest management certification and chain of custody (CoC) training programmes, focusing on PEFC standards, due diligence systems, CoC methods, and multi-site certification; MFCC, in collaboration with Green Gold Industry, developed and implementation of the Digitalization of Timber Tracking System (DTTS), which included establishing a training of trainers programme; comprehensive revisions to MTLAS and MFCS; several knowledge-sharing and awareness raising events, and regular updates were provided through the MFCC website, newsletters, and social media platforms. MFCC also organized study tours to Viet Nam and Malaysia in March and June 2024, respectively, to gain further insights. The completion report states that the project made significant contributions to MFCC by enabling the reorganization of various aspects of the institution, systems, and stakeholder engagement.

At ITTC-60 in December 2024, the Delegation of Myanmar requested to utilize unspent funds in the amount of USD 25,216 to develop a sustainability plan for ensuring the continuity of project outcomes. Such request was then approved by the donor during the 58th session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management.

The sustainability plan is being implemented with the aim of building capacity among stakeholders on forest certification, chain of custody management systems, ISO accreditation and outreach. At the time of preparation of this report, training for ensuring compliance with timber certification based on ISO 1765 and 17021 was conducted in July 2025; a knowledge dissemination event on the role of forest certification in the country was held at the University of Forestry and Environmental Science in September 2025; a first draft of recommendations for synergizing DTTS, TLAS, Forest Certification, and CoC was produced and is being further refined. Project reports and communications materials produced so far are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PP-A_56-342A.

(14) PP-A/59-352 Community Empowerment in Forest Management and Forest Landscape Restoration in Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	479,500
ITTO Budget:		US\$	258,000
Government of Japan:	US\$	258,000	
Government of Sarawak, Malaysia:		US\$	221,500

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK (FDS)

Starting Date and Duration: April 2023 to March 2024 / 12 months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: First extension until October 2024 (MOFA-Japan's letter of 25 March 2024 and ITTO's letter L.24-0021)
Second extension until 30 June 2025 (MOFA-Japan's letter of 27 May 2025 and ITTO's letter L.25-0084)

I. Introduction

The project was developed in early 2023 through Japan's Emergency Supplementary Budget Programme. The project agreement was signed in March 2023 and the implementing agency commenced project activities in September 2023.

II. Project objective

The project seeks to empower local communities in forest management and landscape restoration, thereby promoting sustainable livelihoods. To achieve these objectives, the project focuses on two main outputs: i) empowering and training local communities in sustainable forest management and community-based ecotourism, and ii) enhancing collaborative forest landscape restoration (FLR) through local community participation and supportive policy development.

III. Project achievements and outputs

The following activities and outputs have been completed:

- Capacity building for local communities in forest management and community-based ecotourism and on basic wiring, wood craft and furniture making, including a benchmark visit to a successful community-based tourism model.
- Establishing and maintaining a demonstration site for forest landscape restoration (FLR) focused on natural regeneration.
- Organizing the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on FLR, which took place in August 2024 under the theme "Forest as Climate Champions: Harnessing Restoration for Global Resilience".
- Improvement of infrastructure for the forest communities in Upper Baram Forest Area (UBFA) with the construction of footpaths at Lio Mato and Long Lamam; upgrading and repairing works for water gravity feed system and the community hall at Ba Muboi.
- An engagement session with government agencies and community leaders was held in mid-February in Miri.

IV. Outcomes and impacts

The project has provided an opportunity for FDS to enhance its relationship with local indigenous communities in the UBFA, learn about their immediate needs and build mutual trust, thus fostering a spirit of shared ownership and long term commitment to forest stewardship.

V. Lessons learnt and sustainability

Inclusive approach was key for implementation of field activities, however compliance with government procurement procedures delayed implementation of activities, some of which could not be completed by the completion deadline.

Outcomes of the project are feeding future strategies for expanding community-based ecotourism and green economic models aligned with Sarawak government's priorities.

VI. Concluding remarks

At the time of preparation of this report, the executing agency informed ITTO that it was preparing the project completion report. 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/PP-A_59-352-BWP-11-e-Sarawak.

(15) PP-A/60-367 Critical Upliftment of Local Livelihoods: Urgent Actions for Community-Based Conservation and Development in Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	289,039.24
ITTO Budget:	US\$	139,039.24
Government of Japan:	US\$	139,039.24
Government of Sarawak, Malaysia:	US\$	150,000.00

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK (FDS)

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months

Approved Revised Date of First extension until 30 March 2026 (NOL L25-0022)

Project Completion:

The Upper Baram Forest Area (UBFA), scattered over an area of 283,500 hectares, consists of 32 communities from various ethnic groups and holds immense significance due to its rich biodiversity, critical role in maintaining ecological balance, and its importance as a vital resource for local livelihoods. This project aims at enhancing the management of the UBFA and uplifting the local community's livelihoods by involving women's groups in the diversification of economic activities through training and capacity building.

The project was funded in March 2024 thanks to the generous contributions of the Government of Japan, the project agreement was duly signed in September 2024, and a satisfactory inception report was submitted to the Secretariat on 7 April 2025, triggering the first instalment of the project in the same month. Progress is reported as follows.

- Activities under output 1 "Establish sustainable livelihood enhancement programs for the affected indigenous communities" are ongoing, a community engagement exercise was carried out in February 2025, which provided feedback on potential activities for livelihood upliftment and

potential sites for pilot community conservation areas; followed by a field visit in July 2025 which gathered further data. A workshop to build capacity on community-based conservation was carried out as well in July 2025 with the representation of 66 communities. Work for uplifting community infrastructure is ongoing, so far, a step path was completed in Lio Mato.

- Activities under output 2 “Develop a management plan for ecosystem restoration and conservation for selected sites within the UBFA” have nothing yet to report.

Project reports produced so far are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PP-A_60-367.

(16) PP-A/60-368 Strengthening the Resilience of Indigenous Mayan Communities in Tropical Forests of the Yucatan Peninsula through the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in the Context of the Maya Train Project (Mexico)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	337,097
ITTO Budget:		US\$	227,097
Government of Japan:	US\$	227,097	
Government of Mexico:		US\$	110,000

Implementing Agency: NATIONAL SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION, MERIDA UNIT,
NATIONAL AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MEXICO

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months
Approved Revised Date of 31 December 2025 (NOL L25-0022)
Project Completion:

The project derived from concept note CN-22022 with an expression of interest from Japan’s Emergency Supplementary Budget Programme in December 2023. The project agreement was duly signed in September 2024, and the first instalment of funds was done in November 2024, thus marking the commencement of the project.

The Yucatan Peninsula has a great biocultural wealth thanks to the diversity of its ecosystems and the heritage of the Mayan culture. However, the extent of tropical forests, their environmental services and the traditional knowledge associated with these ecosystems have all decreased due to recurrent land-use changes in the region, including the introduction of the Maya Train megaproject. The project intends to raise awareness of traditional knowledge for the sustainable management and used of biodiversity while promoting local livelihoods.

Progress is reported as follows:

Activities under output 1 “Research results have been published and made available to decision-makers”: workshops to disseminate and validate project research with communities and authorities have been completed, while the compilation of information on flora, fauna and ecosystem services and the production of an interactive map containing such information are ongoing.
Activities under output 2 “Target communities have been trained in strategies to strengthen their local economy”: activities have been completed with the diagnostic assessment of local enterprises in accordance with the indicators of the Green Rural Enterprise model; development of business plans for selected community enterprises; and training courses and strategies to strengthen the production chain based on the needs identified in the business plans and in the assessment.

- Activities under outputs 3, which relate to outreach and dissemination of above outputs are ongoing with editing, layout and design of the various communication products. At the time of preparation of this report, drafts were shared with the ITTO Secretariat and feedback was provided accordingly.

Project reports and communications materials produced so far are available from the ITTO website at www.itto.int/project/id/PP-A_60-368 .

(17) PP-A/60-370 Integrated Project to Strengthen Sustainable Management Systems and Monitoring the Miombo Forest against Degradation Processes for Food Security, Rural Employment and Climate Mitigation Action (Angola)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	197.544.09
ITTO Budget:		US\$	166,847.09
Government of Japan:	US\$	166.847,09	
Government of Angola:		US\$	30,697.00

Implementing Agency: FOREST DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(*INSTITUT DE DEVELOPPEMENT FORESTIER - IDF*)

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months
Approved Revised Date of First extension until March 2026 (MOFA-Japan's letter of 23 April 2025 and ITTO's letter L.25-0022 of 17 February 2025)
Project Formal Duration:

The project was developed through Japan's Emergency Budget Programme, with the aim to prevent and control the rapid degradation of the miombo forest ecosystem in Angola, which has worsened in the last five years because of the overexploitation of some of its most valuable species, due to the economic situation and financial crisis in the country associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. The degradation of miombo forest ecosystems has led to inequality and extreme poverty (especially for rural economies), making forests susceptible to encroachment by playing the role of social safety net. The funds were made available by the Government of Japan for the project implementation period from April 2024 to March 2025. The project agreement was signed in September 2024 by all project parties, after a 6-month process for the review of the Agreement by Angola's signatory parties (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and IDF). The extension of the project formal duration was granted until March 2026 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan in consultation with the ITTO Secretariat.

This project will contribute to reversing the degradation of miombo forest ecosystems, while increasing their forest cover, with the involvement of key stakeholders, including local communities in the project's target areas, timber companies and other forestry stakeholders, in the central, southern and eastern provinces of Angola. The project specifically aims to promote the gradual rehabilitation of degraded miombo forest ecosystems with the involvement of key stakeholders, including local communities in the project's target areas, timber companies and other relevant stakeholders.

The project implementation will deliver two expected outputs contributing to achieve the specific objective, namely: (1) Institutional and legal frameworks for the monitoring and surveillance of the drivers of the degradation of miombo forest ecosystems are being developed for submission to bilateral and multilateral partners for financial support, (2) Pressures on Miombo forest ecosystems gradually reduced through their rehabilitation while contributing to satisfying multiple primary needs: basic food products, wood energy (fuelwood and charcoal), service wood, etc.

The disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds, needed for the commencement of the project implementation, is pending until reception by the ITTO Secretariat of an acceptable Inception Report and its associated Detailed Work Plan. Since the signature of the Agreement by all parties in September 2024, the ITTO Secretariat had been regularly interacting with Angola's signatory parties (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and IDF as project implementing agency), while informing the Embassy of Japan in Angola and the Embassy of Angola in Japan, as summarized here after:

- a) For the disbursement of the first instalment of ITTO funds required to start implementing the project, the ITTO Secretariat sent an e-mail message on 29 September 2024 asking for the submission of the Inception Report (IR) and its associated Detailed Work Plan (DWP), at their earliest convenience, as well as two EXCEL form documents regarding financial aspects. For guidance examples of the Inception Report (IR) and its associated Detailed Work Plan (DWP) were shared with them, to avoid reinventing the wheel, as this is the first ITTO project for Angola which became an ITTO member in July 2022;
- b) It is important to note that several reminder e-mail messages were sent by the ITTO Secretariat on the following dates: 4 October 2024, 25 November 2024, 13 December 2024, 14 January 2025, 31 January 2025, 18 February 2025, 26 March 2025, 12 April 2025, 25 April 2025, 4 June 2025, 16 June 2025 and 6 August 2025;
- c) In addition to the non-submission of the Inception Report (IR) and its associated Detailed Work Plan (DWP), the ITTO Secretariat was informed that the bank account details of the National Coffee Fund (NCF) of Angola will be used for the implementation of PP-A/60-370 because the implementing agency (IDF) is not legally allowed to open an independent bank account in a bank of commonly high reputation. There had been interactions between NCF/A and IDF on the bank account issue, as it is about security/safety of ITTO funds to be disbursed for the implementation of PP-A/60-370;
- d) On 28 April 2025, a virtual meeting with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan was held with the aim of clarifying the status some ITTO projects funded through the Japan's Supplementary Budget, including Angola's project PP-A/60-370, in relation to MOFA-Japan's no-objection letters (Note-Verbales) regarding the extension of their formal implementation period. This meeting was an opportunity to inform MOFA-Japan that the first installment required for starting the project implementation was not disbursed yet because of the non-compliance with the provisions of Para (a) / Section 3.03 / Article IV of the Agreement that shall govern the project implementation. MOFA-Japan was also informed about the abovementioned problem of IDF (project executing agency of PP-A/60-370), which is a governmental institution, to open an independent account in a commercial bank for the project implementation.
- e) On 8 September 2025, the project executing agency provided the bank account to be used for the project implementation, which was opened by Fundo de Desenvolvimento do Café de Angola (FDCA) on behalf of the project executing agency (IDF) which is not legally allowed to open an independent bank account in a commercial bank. FDCA signed an MOU with the project executing agency (IDF) on how to operationalize the bank account for project implementation. Both FDCA and IDF are entities operating under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Angola

For the disbursement of the first instalment of ITTO funds required to start implementing the project, the ITTO Secretariat asked for the submission of the Inception Report (IR) and its associated Detailed Work Plan (DWP), as soon as possible, so that the project could be implemented during the remaining six months.

B. BWP PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES IN IMPLEMENTATION

(1) PP-A/54-331A Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,413,449
ITTO Budget:	US\$	1,413,449
Government of Germany:	US\$	1,413,449

Implementing Agency: Asia-Pacific
Cambodia: Forestry Administration
Thailand: Royal Forestry Department/Kasetsart University
Vietnam: Administration of Forestry/Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences
India: Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education
Indonesia: Ministry of Environment and Forestry
West Africa
Togo: University of Lomé

Starting Date and Duration: November 2023 / 36 months

This project originated from the concept note (CN-23026) and received financing of US\$1,413,449 from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) in August 2023. ITTO has concluded the Minutes of Understandings (MOUs) with four participating countries, namely: Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Togo. As for the other two participating countries (Indonesia and India), the signing of the MOUs is pending review results by authorities in the respective countries. The signing of the MOU between ITTO and the Johann Heinrich Thunen Institute has been concluded in January 2024. The project has started to implement the activities since the beginning of November 2023.

The Project aims to significantly improve the production of high-quality timber from teak and other valuable species plantations established by smallholders and communities in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa. This will be achieved by promoting policies to secure high quality planting stock, adoption of best silviculture practices, access to financing to promote longer rotations, value addition, and improved timber legality. Key activities include promoting financial schemes that invest in high-quality teak production with long rotations and provide access to voluntary carbon markets. Tapping into the carbon credit markets would provide additional incentives and support the global effort on climate change mitigation. Furthermore, it facilitates regional and international cooperation for sustainable smallholder plantations. Through the effective implementation of policies and the promotion of collaboration promotion, this Project will contribute to improving the economic outcomes of smallholder and community plantations in the tropics.

Until the reporting date, the project has made the following progresses:

Outputs and Activities	Percentage executed	Original planned completion date	Estimated completion date	Note
Output 1: Supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantation and management systems have been strengthened with easy availability of high-quality planting stock and implementation of improved practices in silviculture, timber processing and legality				
1.1 Conserve teak and other valuable species genetic variation through improved management of existing seed production areas, seed orchards, and provenance/progeny trials/clonal plantations (India, Indonesia, Thailand)	40	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	In execution for Thailand and Togo components ; Activity not started for Indonesia
1.2 Support smallholders and local communities for improved management of existing demonstration plots for teak and other valuable species and field training on the following subjects: (1) seed production/nursery techniques; (2) silvicultural practices and improved stand management, including coppicing as a regeneration method; (3) minimizing harvesting loss, efficient transport and processing of teak roundwood and product designs and innovation; (4) teak value chains and other valuable species and NTFP (5) timber legality and sustainability (all participating countries)	40	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	All participating countries have executed the training sessions, while Indonesia initiated discussion with stakeholders.
1.3 Promote timber legal compliance in smallholder/ community plantations, aligning with national and local laws governing forest plantations, management, timber harvesting and legality (global)	30	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	The first draft was submitted.

Outputs and Activities	Percentage executed	Original planned completion date	Estimated completion date	Note
Output 2: Financing schemes for quality timber production in smallholders and community-based teak and other species plantations have been analyzed and improvements have been suggested to increase economic outcomes.				
2.1 Carry out a feasibility study for direct contracts/out-grower schemes with sourcing companies to ensure that smallholders' products will be purchased at remunerative prices (all participating countries)	35	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	Field data collection started
2.2 Carry out a study to promote micro-lending schemes to address the credit constraints of smallholders to explore different options to overcome the problem with collaterals that smallholders often face trees as guarantees, and group-lending to a number of forest growers who can ensure loan repayments from each other (all participating countries)	35	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	Same as the above row
2.3 Carry out a study to promote the formation of effective forest grower associations to reduce transaction costs and help improve access to micro-credits (all participating countries)	35	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	Same as the above row
2.4. Carry out a study to access to voluntary carbon markets to increase revenues from longer rotation of smallholder and community-based teak and other valuable species plantations to increase financial security of farmers, address the issue of cash flows, and support their access to micro-lending schemes (global scope)	35	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	Same as the above row
Sub-contract with the Thünen Institute of Forestry to carry out feasibility studies for financing schemes for smallholder teak plantations	Signed	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	
Output 3: Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, networking, policy development and outreach for sustainable smallholder teak and other species plantations have been strengthened				
3.1 Produce and disseminate outreach and training materials on the conservation and sustainable management of teak and other	45	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	8 out of 18 bi-monthly newsletters

valuable species plantations and legal and sustainable supply chains in line with outcomes of Activities 1.2 and 2.1-2.4 to support forest policy development (regional scope).				Project website Completed VDOs for Thailand and Cambodia
3.2 Support and facilitate teak networking in ITTO's member countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America in collaboration with TEAKNET and other partners through the organization of a quarterly-based Webinar (4 every year) to promote the conservation and sustainable management of teak forest resources and legal and sustainable supply chains (global scope).	25	Aug 2026	Dec 2026	4 out of 12 webinars successfully organized .
3.3 Plan and organize a regional workshop in Thailand for timber legality and another regional workshop in Java, Indonesia with investors and financial institutions to discuss financing schemes promoting quality timber production in smallholder teak plantations (regional scope).	50	1st Regional Workshop was conducted during 18-20 September 2024 in Thailand.	2nd Regional workshop – planned during 3rd Q of 2026.	Venue will be determined.
3.4 Support sharing lessons in promoting the quality teak production and legal and sustainable supply chains at the IUFRO World Congress 2024 (Sweden) and in the 5th World Teak Conference 2025 (Kerala, India) for improved global teak collaboration (global scope).	60	IUFRO 2024 held in Jun 2024	5th World Teak Conference 2025 (Kerela – 17-20 September 2025)	A side event will be organized at the 5th WTC.

The ITTO-BMLEH teak project has provided six tropical countries in Asia-Pacific and West Africa with a unique opportunity to collaborate in their effort toward the sustainable management of teak and other valuable species and to promote quality timber production under the South- South Cooperation. Following the successful Launching and Inception Workshops in October 2023 and January 2024, respectively, the project team and institutional arrangement were established in five participating countries (except Indonesia) to implement the project activities with support from consultants.

The project is progressing well in Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, and Togo, as these participating countries began activities in late 2023 or early 2024. However, implementation in India is behind schedule. At the current speed of implementation, it is hoped that India component will be able to catch up with the progress of other countries. The project's activities in Indonesia is expected to start in August 2025.

After one and half years, the project has achieved an overall completion rate of 36%. The progress under Output1: Supply chains of smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species

plantation and management systems, and Output 3: Regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, ranges from 40 -60%. In comparison, the average progress of activities under Output 2: Financing schemes for quality timber production in smallholders and community-based teak and other species plantations is 35%.

The Executing Agency has submitted to the Secretariat a project progress report covering activities to June 2024 which is available on request (English only). The 1st PSC meeting was held in Bangkok on 17 September 2024, followed by the 1st Project's Regional Workshop on 18 September 2024.

(2) PP-A/56-341C Support for Women's Groups with the Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou, Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	80,330.73
ITTO Budget:		US\$	64,180.73
Soka Gakkai (SG):	US\$	64,180.73	
ONG W.E.W.:		US\$	16,150.00

Implementing Agency: African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (REFACOF, in French acronym) in collaboration with World Ecology Women (W.E.W.) of Benin

Starting Date and Duration: October 2024 / 12 months

This 12-month BWP Project-based Activity is funded as part of the Third Programme Line (PL3) titled "Forest Landscape Restoration and Resilient Livelihoods" under the Programmatic Approach of the new financing architecture which is subject to a pilot phase implementation in conformity with some appropriate provisions of Decision 8(LV) calling upon the ITTO Secretariat to play a more proactive role in seeking new funding avenues and partners for the funding of ITTO's work. This new BWP Project-based Activity was fully funded by Soka Gakkai (SG), by the inter-sessional pledge received after the Fifty-ninth Session of the Council through a funding mechanism supported by a Profile-document for this BWP Project-based Activity. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) governing the implementation of this BWP Project-based Activity has been duly signed by all parties (Government of Benin, WEW-Benin, Implementing Agency and ITTO Secretariat), in August 2024. The disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds was made in September 2024.

The objective of this BWP Project-based Activity is to promote the participation of women's groups in the restoration of degraded forest landscapes. It aims at creating community forests and highlighting the importance of tackling impacts of climate change, while contributing to a significant improvement in the livelihoods of local communities involved in its implementation. Specifically, this BWP Project-based Activity intends to provide women's groups with the necessary means allowing them to be key actors in the restoration of degraded forest landscapes, thereby contributing to the improvement of local environment and economic well-being of communities involved in its implementation in the Ouémé and Zou departments of Benin.

Based on information from the implementing agency (WEW-Benin), and in accordance with the project's most recent progress report, the main progress in project implementation can be mainly summarized as follows:

- The sensitization meetings with women's groups involved the the restoration of degraded forest landscapes in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou were organized in collaboration with the local

authorities. This step made it possible to better understand the expectations of local communities, to adapt the project's actions to the realities on the ground and to lay the foundations for a participatory planning of activities.

- The sensitization meetings also served to mobilize women grouped in cooperatives operating in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou, who are involved in the production of charcoal and firewood with a significant impact on the degradation of forest landscapes. This project could contribute to support them in their efforts to be part of the solutions as these local communities are already considered as part of the problems regarding forest landscape degradation.
- Local communities were consulted to identify tree species to be used for rehabilitation activities in degraded forest landscapes in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou. The women's groups of the Department of Zou have chosen *Tectona grandis*, *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Parkia biglobosa*. The women's groups of the Ouémé Department have chosen *Casuarina equisetifolia*, *Acacia auriculiformis* and *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.
- About eighty (80) women from various localities in the Department of Zou and about thirty from the Department of Ouémé benefited from specific training on modules adapted to the realities of their localities. These training modules included the production of seedlings in nurseries, techniques for establishing and maintaining forest plantations, as well as good agroforestry practices (with food crops chosen by women's groups to be associated with trees) to be adopted to ensure the sustainability of rehabilitated forest landscapes. These trainings have helped to strengthen the capacities of women's groups in forest landscape restoration, allowing them to be operational in restoring degraded forest landscapes.
- The women's groups operating in the Departments of Ouémé and Zou produced around 43 thousand tree seedlings (10 thousand of *Acacia auriculiformis*, 3 thousand of *Casuarina equisetifolia*, 8 thousand of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, 6 thousand of *Parkia biglobosa* and 16 thousand of *Tectona grandis*) for establishing tree plantations, together selected relevant food crops using agroforestry system, as contribution to restoring 20 ha (8 ha of forest plantations and 12 ha of agroforestry plantations) of degraded forest landscapes during the rainy season starting in August.

The ITTO Secretariat conducted a monitoring mission (first project technical committee meeting and field visits in selected project sites) from 25 to 26 September 2025.

C. PROJECTS, PRE-PROJECTS, AND BWP PROJECT-BASED ACTIVITIES AWAITING IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT

- (1) **PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) Conservation of African Barwood (*Pterocarpus Erinaceus* Poir) in the Gazetted Forests of La Palee and Boundiali in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of Local Communities – Phase II (Côte d'Ivoire)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	330 736
ITTO Budget:		US\$	246 488
Government of Côte d'Ivoire:	US\$	84 248	

Implementing Agency: Forest Development Corporation (Société de Développement des Forêts— SODEFOR)

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

The first approval of this 36-month project was in September 2019 through the electronic approval system for the project cycle of 2019. This Project was revised and resubmitted by the proponent to the ITTO

Secretariat, in compliance with the provisions of the Council Decision 2(X), for the extension of the validity period of its status as an Approved Project, in 2021. The project was partially financed with an amount of US\$320,000 thanks to the generous contribution of Japan during the inter-session period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59. As the project was partially funded, it was revised into a phased project, which was approved in March 2023, with the Phase 1 to be implemented with the abovementioned amount. The Project Agreement governing Phase 1 of the project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) was signed by all parties in September 2023, and the disbursement of the first installment of ITTO funds made in December 2023 after the reception by the ITTO Secretariat of an acceptable Inception Report and its associated Detailed Work Plan. Phase II of the project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) was fully funded by the government of Japan during the Sixtieth Session of the Council in December 2024.

The development objective of the project is to contribute to the sustainable management of the African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) ecosystems in Côte d'Ivoire in the Bagoué region. The project specifically intends to safeguard the African barwood tree (*Pterocarpus erinaceus Poir*) in the Gazetted Forests of Palée and Boundiali in the Bagoué region of northern Côte d'Ivoire. There are three expected outputs of the project: (1) the processes of African barwood propagation are understood and mastered; (2) The use of African barwood is sustainable and under control; and (3) Bushfire outbreaks are under control.

Phase II of the project the project PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) will commence its implementation, after the full completion of Phase I with the submission of an acceptable completion report and a satisfactory final financial audit report by the implementing agency (SODEFOR).

(2) PD 944/25 (F) Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment of Potential Investment Areas (PIAs) within Forest Land in the Philippines

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	160,000
ITTO Budget:	US\$	160,000
Government of Japan:	US\$	160,000

Implementing Agency: PHILIPPINES FOREST MANAGEMENT BUREAU (FMB)

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 12 months

This project was approved in December 2024 during the 60th session of ITTC and is fully funded by the Government of Japan. The project addresses the increasing vulnerability of Philippine Forests to natural disasters and climate-related hazards, such as pests, diseases, soil degradation, typhoons, and droughts. These risks pose significant threats to forest ecosystems and the investments tied to them. This project aims to assess these vulnerabilities and provide actionable insights for private investors, enabling them to optimize their investments in climate-resilient forestry and reduce financial risks. By implementing the recommended strategies, investors can expect improved asset protection, reduced revenue loss, and contribution to national climate adaptation goals.

- a) The review process for the project agreement began in February 2025. The ITTO Secretariat and the project proponent held a virtual meeting on 4 April 2025 to discuss the progress of the review.
- b) According to the Philippines government's legislative process, the project agreement should be approved by government authorities, including the Office of the President (OP-MC51), which

oversees the authority to negotiate and/or sign international agreements, foreign loan, grants and guarantees. The average time to complete this process is one year.

- c) The ITTO Secretariat has been maintaining monthly communications with the project proponent to track the progress of this process.
- In June 2025, the project agreement was endorsed by the DENR-Foreign-Assisted office.
 - During this period, a new Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) was appointed. As of the end of September, the project agreement is still undergoing review by the Undersecretaries of DENR.

D. PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS AWAITING FINANCING

- (1) **PD 712/13 Rev.3 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra, Indonesia – Phase II**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	380,246
ITTO Budget:	US\$	248,154
Government of Indonesia:	US\$	6,272
Sinarmas Forestry & Partners	US\$	125,820

Implementing Agency: Forest Research and Development Centre, Forestry and Environment Research, Development and Innovation Agency (FOERDIA), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF), Indonesia

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in October 2021

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / Phase II - 12 months

The project was approved under the Spring 2014 Project Cycle and was revised in two Phases, taking into account the funds available for immediate implementation. Phase I focuses on the enhanced planning framework and institutional capacity of the Giam Siak Kecil Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) and is currently operational with funding from the government of the Republic of Korea. Phase II of this project, focusing on promoting partnerships among key stakeholders for the operational management of GSK-BR, will commence, if funded, following the completion of Phase I.

GSK-BR covering an area of approximately 705,000 ha in the province of Riau, Sumatra has been recognized as a public-private partnership biosphere reserve by the UNESCO World Monitoring Networks in 2009. However, this biosphere reserve has not been sustainably managed. Therefore, the project is designed to initiate an effective implementation framework of sustainable management and conservation of GSK-BR by realizing the management objectives and basic functions of GSK-BR. More specifically, it aims at promoting the sustainable management and conservation of the reserve in an effective manner.

(2) PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) Providing Support for the Sustainable Management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in the Savanna Region in Togo - Phase II

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	366,493.00
ITTO Budget:	US\$	282,624.16
Government of Togo	US\$	83,868.45

Implementing Agency: AGENCY FOR FOREST DEVELOPMENT AND USE (*OFFICE DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ET D'EXPLOITATION DES FORÊTS—ODEF*)

Period of Approval: Rev.3: Approved in March 2023

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 18 months

The first approval of this 36-month project was in September 2019 through the electronic approval system for the project cycle of 2019. The project was partially financed with an amount of US\$200,000 thanks to the generous contribution of Japan during the inter-session period between ITTC 58 and ITTC 59. As the project was partially funded, it was revised into a phased project, which was approved in March 2023, with the Phase 1 to be implemented with the abovementioned amount. The Project Agreement governing the Phase 1 of the project PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) had been signed by all parties in May 2023. Phase II of the project PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) was partially funded by the government of USA, which pledged USD50,000 during the Sixtieth Session of the Council in December 2024.

The Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest was once a superb reserve for fauna and flora. However, as a result of the socio-political unrest that Togo experienced during the 1990s, the gazetted forest, as most of the protected areas, has been invaded and devastated by local people, thereby questioning the non-participatory, unilateral management processes applied by the Forest Administration since the colonial era. Over the decades this has led to significant changes, particularly in relation to the degradation of forest resources, biodiversity, uncontrolled exploitation, and worsening impoverishment of local populations. The overall aim of the project is to improve the living conditions of the population of the prefecture of Tône and Tandjoaré through the sustainable management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest. This project specifically aims at sustainably managing the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in order to improve the living conditions and environment of local populations.

Phase II of the project PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) will commence its implementation, following the completion of Phase I (to be reported as fully completed if the final financial audit report is satisfactory), if it is fully funded by donors during the Sixty-first Session of the Council in October 2025.

(3) PD 936/24 Rev.1 (F) Protection and Restoration of Forest Lands for Water Catchment, Regulation and Recharge in the Upper Salinas River Watershed, Guatemala, as a Climate Change Adaptation Measure to Ensure Water Supply for the Guatemalan Population

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	615,031.10
ITTO Budget:	US\$	496,959.10
Water for People:	US\$	74,472.00

INAB & Local Municipal Councils:	US\$	43,600.00
Implementing Agency:	WATER FOR PEOPLE (WFP)	
Collaborating Agency:	NATIONAL FOREST INSTITUTE (INAB) AND LOCAL MUNICIPAL COUNCILS	
Period of Approval:	October 2024	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 24 months	

The Department of Quiché located in the northwestern region of the country covers an area of 8,378 km² (7.67% of the national territory), with approximately 42.5% of its land under forest cover. The project's area of intervention covers four municipalities located in the upper reaches of the Salinas River Watershed.

Aware of the significance of forests and their link to water-related environmental services, the association Water for People (WFP), in coordination with the National Forest Institute (INAB), has developed this project with a view to maintaining, restoring and increasing forest cover over at least 800 hectares, in areas of high to very high-water recharge significance in the Upper Salinas River Watershed, as well as implementing two compensation mechanisms for environmental water services as a way of strengthening water resource governance in the area and ensuring the social, economic and environmental sustainability of water resources.

(4) PD 938/24 Rev.1 (F) Sustainable Management of Production Forests Driven by Traditional Communities in the Brazilian Amazon

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	1,656,672
ITTO Budget:	US\$	678,531
Government of Brazil:	US\$	978,141
Implementing Agency:	EMPRESA BRASILEIRA DE PESQUISA AGROPECUÁRIA AMAZONIA ORIENTAL (EMBRAPA)	
Period of Approval:	October 2024	
Starting Date and Duration:	To be determined / 36 months	

Traditional communities producing timber in the Brazilian Amazon face significant challenges. The most important lies in communitarian organization, poor access to technical assistance and training and the need to adapt to management models that are not adequately addressing their needs and capacities. The project aims to strengthen communities in the Conservation Unit Verde para Sempre in the State of Pará, with an area of 13 thousand km². This project will apply an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional approach combining organizational strengthening and forest management skills.

(5) PD 940/24 Rev.1 (F) Strengthening Effective Forest Area Designation and Customary Rights in East Nusa Tenggara Province as a Precondition of Achieving Sustainable Forest Management (Indonesia)

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	673,715
ITTO Budget:	US\$	599,555
Government of Indonesia:	US\$	74,160

Implementing Agency: DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF FORESTRY PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

Period of Approval: October 2024

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 30 months

Sustainable forest management is the key to forest productivity, and the continuity of the flow of benefits (social, economic, and ecological) for the local, national, and global. In the Indonesian context, one of the pre-conditions for achieving and realizing SFM is clear and legitimate land tenure. Designation of forest areas refers to the formal process by which the government designates certain areas as conservation, protection, and production forests through a participatory process of boundary marking and an official declaration. Apart from strengthening the legality and legitimacy of forest areas, the process of designation of forest areas also provides recognition for local community management land, while contributing to solving various conflicts regarding the boundaries of forest areas and customary lands in NTT Province which continue to emerge and to be the cause of ineffective sustainable forest management.

The main objective of this project is to accelerate the effective designation of forest areas as a precondition of SFM in NTT Province. The expected outputs of this project are: a) local communities' rights recognized and resolved, b) community capacity and acceptance of securing forest and land area boundaries improved, c) Local institutions on managing land tenure strengthened, and d) forestry-based business model at the community level developed.

(6) PD 941/24 Rev.1 (F) Capacity Building for Private and Community Tree Farmers in Relation with the Sustainable Management of Forest Plantations in Southern Benin

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:	US\$	629,612
ITTO Budget:	US\$	537,712
Benin (CPDRN-NGO):	US\$	91,900

Implementing Agency: CENTER FOR THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (CENTRE DE PROMOTION DU DÉVELOPPEMENT LOCAL ET DE GESTION DURABLE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES—CPDRN)

Collaborating Agency: GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF WATER, FORESTS AND HUNTING
(*DIRECTION GENERALE DES EAUX, FORETS ET CHASSE—DGEFC*);
NATIONAL TIMBER CORPORATION (*SOCIÉTÉ NATIONALE DU
BOIS—SONAB*)

Period of Approval: October 2024

Starting Date and Duration: To be determined / 36 months

Forest landscapes are undergoing continuous degradation in Southern Benin – location area of the environment conservation Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 – threatening the entire ecosystem, biodiversity, natural resources, as well as the livelihoods of local communities. Strategies implemented to reverse this trend include reforestation and the development of forest plantations to meet the ever-increasing demand for forest products. Investigations carried out as part of project development showed that technical itineraries and silvicultural operations are not being followed. As a result, forest plantations produce low yields in terms of both quantity and quality. It results in discouragement and a change of vocation among tree farmers.

This capacity-building project for private and community tree farmers in southern Benin aims to ensure the sustainable management of forest plantations and to improve the livelihoods of stakeholders and rural communities with limited financial resources, while specifically contributing to the conservation of natural forests and to the restoration of degraded forest landscapes in the project's target areas. The project derives from the implementation of the pre-project PPD 201/21 Rev.2 (F) entitled: "*Study for Capacity Building of Private and Community Tree Farmers in Benin*" which was implemented previously by the same executing agency.

The project PD 941/24 Rev.1 (F) will become sunset if it is not funded by the Council within a validity period of 20 months (by June 2026), since its approval in October 2024. However, it may be revise and resubmitted to the Council. Failing resubmission, this project will lose its status of approved project.

* * *