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REPORT OF THE EXPERT PANEL

FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS

Sixtieth Expert Panel

Virtual review July-October 2025

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REPORT OF THE 60th EXPERT PANEL FOR THE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS (Expert Panel) VIRTUAL REVIEW

1. INTRODUCTION

The 60th meeting of the Expert Panel was scheduled to be held at the ITTO Secretariat in Yokohama, on 30 June - 4 July 2025. Due to the low numbers of proposals received, the 60th EP did not meet physically in Yokohama for the assessments of the proposals. In order to not leave the eleven proposals received under the Spring 2025 (Deadline 20 December 2024) and Autumn 2025 (Deadline 14 April 2025) cycles, the Secretariat proposed to the members of the Expert Panel a virtual review procedure (see section 4). The procedure was considered feasible and endorsed by the members of the Expert Panel.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Expert Panel (ITTC/EP-60) worked in accordance with the Terms of Reference attached, see **Appendix I**. Furthermore, it has been guided by the endorsement of the Council at its 40th Session of Document ITTC(XL)/5 and, in particular the authorization contained in paragraph 7, to apply the "Revised ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals". The Sixtieth Panel appraised the proposals and classified them according to categories listed in **Appendix II** applying the current consolidated version of the scoring system summarized in **Appendix V** and **Appendix VI**.

3. PANEL MEMBERSHIP

The Sixtieth Expert Panel was attended by the twelve members listed in Appendix IV. Due to the virtual review process agreed (see section 4), no Chairperson was elected for this Expert Panel.

4. APPRAISAL PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

4.1. The procedures, aspects and guidelines applied by the Panel to appraise Project and Pre-project Proposals are laid down in the Terms of Reference of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of ITTO Project Proposals (Appendix I). The appraisal also took into account the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) and the ITTO Policy Guidelines on Gender Equality and Empowering Women (GEEW).

4.2. The panel members also made use of the established ITTO scoring system for the technical appraisal for proposals which has been created as a tool to facilitate the categorization of the proposals.

4.3. All documentation needed by the Panel members for their appraisal was posted online (using Dropbox) including the proposals, review instructions, scoring sheets, briefing notes for new panel members or relevant ITTO guidelines.

4.4. The virtual process was launched on 25 June 2025 with a deadline of 31 July 2025.

4.5. The appraisal procedure endorsed by the members of the Expert Panel included the following steps:

a) In accordance with established practice, each proposal was assigned to two Panel members, one from a Producer country and one from a Consumer country;
b) Each Panel member would complete the common appraisal sheet (Scoring Table) for the proposals assigned to her/him;
c) After completion the appraisal sheets (Scoring Table) would be returned to the ITTO Secretariat;
d) In cases where both reviewers ranked a proposal as Category 1 (commended to the Committee with only minor modifications required), such proposal would go forward to the Committee/Council for approval;
e) In cases where both reviewers ranked a proposal as Category 4 (not in line with ITTO objectives or requiring complete revision), the proposal would be returned to the proponent;

f) In all other cases (reviewers have a divergence of views/rank differently, reviewers rank a proposal as Category 2 (requiring essentials revisions) or Category 3 (a pre-project is required), such proposals would be held until such time that the panel can physically meet.

4.6. In cases where revised proposals were submitted, the Panel members also referred to the overall and specific recommendations made by the earlier Panel(s) to assess if these recommendations had been adequately addressed.

5. APPRAISAL AND ASSESSMENT CARRIED OUT

5.1. Eleven (11) project proposals were received for appraisal by the Sixtieth Expert Panel. The overall list of 11 Project Proposals reviewed by the Expert Panel and the category of decision allocated to each proposal is presented in Appendix III. The procedures and criteria applied for the assessment have been specified above in section 4.

5.2. The ITTO Secretariat allocated the Project Proposals in three blocks so that the Panel could deal with all proposals related to Reforestation and Forest Management (RFM) (8), with those related to Forest Industry (2), and those related to Economics, Statistics and Markets (ESM) (1). This arrangement facilitated the appraisal as well as the formulation of the overall assessment and specific recommendations for each proposal listed in the Annex of this report.

5.3. The ITTO Secretariat assisted the work of the Panel by providing a general introduction of each proposal, also addressing any previous deliberations.

5.4. In following-up the results of the appraisal and following common practice, the Secretariat provided the following information and documents to all countries who have submitted proposals:

- The Overall Assessment and Specific Recommendations on each proposal submitted by the country (Annex);
- General findings and final categories commended by the Panel.

6. GENERAL FINDINGS

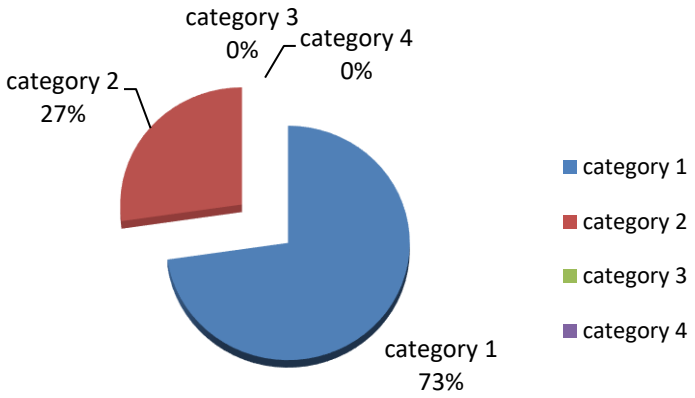
The Panel noted that:

- Eight (8) Project Proposals (73 percent of the total) were commended to the Committee for final appraisal with minor modifications required (category 1);
- Three (3) Project Proposal (27 percent of the total) will be sent back to proponent for essential revision, rated as category 2;
- None (0) Project Proposal (0 percent of the total) received a category 3, indicating that the project requires a pre-project to better formulate a new proposal; and
- None (0) Project Proposal (0 percent of the total) received a category 4, indicating that the Expert Panel does not commend these to the Committee for approval as they require complete reformulation.

See paragraph 7, pie chart "*proposals by category*".

7. PANEL DECISIONS ON PROJECT AND PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS

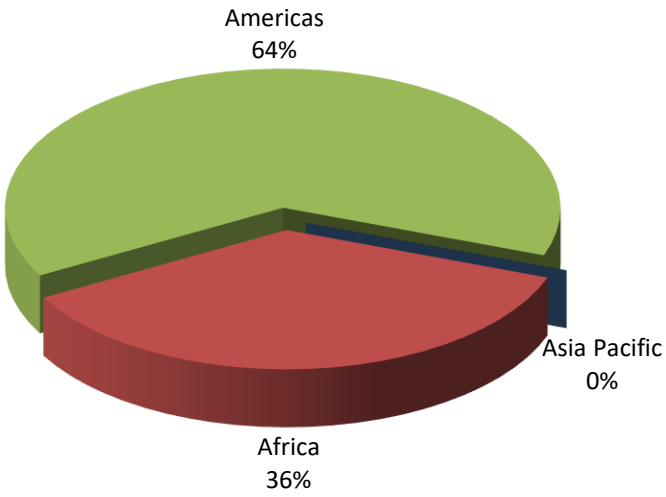
The Panel's decisions are listed in Appendix III, in accordance with established practice. Proposals classified by category, by regions, by committee areas and by submitting countries are summarised in the following tables and charts:



Summary of Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the Sixtieth Expert Panel by Region

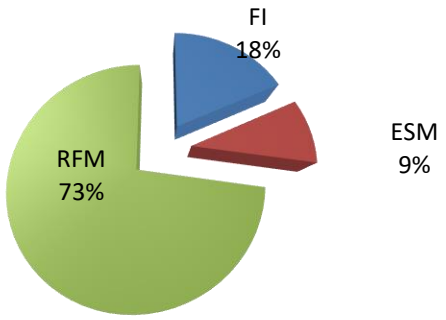
Region	Project Proposals				Pre-project Proposals				Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	RFM	FI	ESM	Total	
Asia Pacific	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Africa	2	-	-	2	2	-	-	2	4
Americas	3	1	1	5	1	1	-	2	7
Total	**5**	**1**	**1**	**7**	**3**	**1**	**-**	**4**	**11**

RFM = Reforestation and Forest Management
FI = Forest Industry
ESM = Economics, Statistics and Markets



Decisions of the 60th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Committee Area

Category	Committee			Total
	RFM	FI	ESM	
Projects				
1	5	-	1	**6**
2	-	1	-	**1**
3	-	-	-	**-**
4	-	-	-	**-**
Total	**5**	**1**	**1**	**7**
Pre-projects				
1	2	-	-	**2**
2	1	1	-	**2**
4	-	-	-	**-**
Total	**3**	**1**	-	**4**



Decisions of the 60th Expert Panel on Project and Pre-project Proposals by Submitting Country

Country	Category				Total
	1	2	3	4	
Benin	(1)+1	-	-	-	(1)+1
Brazil	1	-	-	-	1
Guatemala	1	1	-	-	2
Honduras	-	(2)	-	-	(2)
Peru	2	-	-		2
Togo	(1)+1	-	-		(1)+1
Total	**(2)+6**	**(2)+1**	**-**	**-**	**11**

Note: Parenthesis indicates pre-project.

APPENDIX I

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT PANEL FOR THE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF ITTO PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Panel shall:

(i) Assess new Project and Pre-project Proposals submitted to the organization. The recommendations for amendments to these proposals shall be made by the Expert Panel exclusively for the purpose of ensuring their technical soundness;

(ii) Screen the Project Proposals for their relevance to ITTO's Action Plan and Work Programs (in the areas of Economics, Statistics and Markets, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry), and consistency with ITTO decisions and policy guidelines, but not otherwise prioritize them;

(iii) Where reformulation involving major amendments is recommended, request to carry out a final appraisal of the revised versions of Project and Pre-project Proposals, prior to their presentation to the relevant ITTO Committees;

(iv) Report on the results of the technical assessment of Project and Pre-project Proposals to the submitting governments and to the ITTO Council and Committees, through the ITTO Secretariat;

(v) The Expert Panel shall take into consideration previous Expert Panels' reports.

The Expert Panel, in assessing Projects and Pre-projects, shall also take into account:

(a) their relevance to the objectives of the ITTA, 2006 and the requirement that a Project or Pre-project should contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Agreement objectives;

(b) their environmental and social effects;

(c) their economic effects;

(d) their cost effectiveness;

(e) the need to avoid duplication of efforts;

(f) if applicable, their relationship and integration with ITTO policy work and their consistency to the latest ITTO Strategic Action Plan including:

- Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Production Forests, 1993;
- ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests, 1996;
- ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics, 2020;
- ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests, 2009; and
- Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, 2015.

APPENDIX II

Rating Categories of the ITTO System for Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals

Rating schedule for Project Proposals

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the Pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee (e.g. complete reformulation is necessary; in case of rev.2 Project Proposals; Project not relevant; Project with insufficient information, etc.).

Rating schedule for Pre-project Proposals

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with the incorporation of amendments.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that the Pre-project Proposal is not commended to the Committee. The proposal is submitted with the recommendation not to approve the Pre-project Proposal.

APPENDIX III

List of Project and Pre-project Proposals reviewed by the Sixtieth Expert Panel

Project No.	Title	Country	Category
PPD 204/23 Rev.1 (F)	Project on Governance of Broadleaved Forests in the Lake Yojoa Region and Resilience of Forest-Related Livelihoods	Honduras	2
PPD 206/25 (F)	Restoration and Sustainable Management of Gallery Forests in the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve in Benin	Benin	1
PPD 207/25 (I)	Strengthening the Value Chain and Sustainable Marketing of Lesser-Used Timber Species in Allocated Areas of Honduras (LUTS – Phase II)	Honduras	2
PPD 208/25 (F)	Study for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in the Mô Plain, Togo	Togo	1
PD 930/22 Rev.1 (F)	Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management of the Sitatunga Valley Community Natural Park, Benin	Benin	1
PD 937/25 (I)	Strengthening the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Forest Enterprises in Guatemala through Forest-Industry-Market Integration	Guatemala	2
PD 939/24 Rev.1 (F)	Generation of Fundamental Information for the Second Cutting Cycle in the Amazon Rainforest	Brazil	1
PD 942/25 (F)	Developing Silvicultural Management Models for Forest Restoration Based on the Use of Seed Trees for the Establishment of Natural and Artificial Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru	Peru	1
PD 948/25 (M)	Experimental Commercial Plantations of Caoba (*Swietenia Macrophylla*) in the Northern Coastal Area of Peru	Peru	1
PD 949/25 (F)	Strengthening Governance Systems and Local Regulatory Frameworks for the Resilience and Sustainability of Municipal and Community Forests in Western Guatemala	Guatemala	1
PD 950/25 (F)	Support to Local Communities for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Mountain Forests in the Sub-Northern Region of Togo	Togo	1

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SIXTIETH MEETING OF THE EXPERT PANEL FOR TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF PROJECT PROPOSALS
Virtual review, June/October 2025

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APPENDIX V

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO Project Proposal (PD)

Weighted Scoring System							
1.			**Project relevance, origin and expected outcomes (15)**	**Mark**	**Score**	**Threshold**	
1.	**1.**		**Relevance**				
1.	1.	1.	*Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities (1.2.1)*			Y	
1.	1.	2.	*Relevance to the submitting country's policies (1.2.2)*			Y	
1.	**2.**		**Origin (1.1)**		5		
1.	**3.**		**Geogr. location (1.3.1)+ Social, cultural and environ. aspects (1.3.2)**		5		
1.	**4.**		**Expected outcomes at project completion (1.4)**		5		
2.			**Project identification process (25)**				
2.	**1.**		**Institutional set up and organisational issues (4.1. + 2.1.1)**		5		
2.	**2.**		**Stakeholders**		10	Y	6
2.	2.	1.	*Stakeholder analysis (2.1.2)*	5			
2.	2.	2.	*Stakeholders involved at inception (2.1.3.) & implementation (4.1.4.)*	5			
2.	**3.**		**Problem analysis (2.1.3)**		10	Y	6
2.	3.	1.	*Problem identification*	5			
2.	3.	2.	*Problem tree*	5			
3.			**Project design (45)**				
3.	**1.**		**Logical framework matrix (2.1.4)**		20	Y	13
3.	1.	1.	*Objectives (2.2)*	5			
3.	1.	2.	*Outputs (3.1.1)*	5			
3.	1.	3	*Indicators & means of verification (columns 2 and 3 of the LogFrame)*	5			
3.	1.	4	*Assumptions and risks (3.5.1)*	5			
3.	**2.**		**Implementation**		20	Y	13
3.	2.	1.	*Activities (3.1.2)*	5			
3.	2	2	*Strategy (approaches and methods, 3.2)*	5			
3.	2	3	*Work plan (3.3)*	5			
3.	2.	4	*Budget (3.4)*	5			
3.	**3.**		**Sustainability (3.5.2)**		5	Y	3
4.			**Implementation arrangements (15)**				
4.	**1.**		**Project's management (EA - 4.1.1, Key staff - 4.1.2, SC - 4.1.3)**		5	Y	3
4.	**2.**		**Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation (4.2)**		5		
4.	**3.**		**Dissemination and mainstreaming of project learning (4.3)**		5		
			Entire project proposal (100)		100,0%	Y	75%
			Category		1		

Marks indicate:
0 - Information is completely missing
1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

Rating categories:

Category 1:	The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.
Category 2:	The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.
Category 3:	The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a Pre-project Proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal.
Category 4:	The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Revised Scoring Table – ITTO PRE-PROJECT PROPOSALS (PPD)

Weighted Scoring System							
1.			**PRE-PROJECT CONTEXT (5)**	**Mark**	**Score**	**Threshold**	
1.	**1.**		**Origin and justification**		5		
1.	**2.**		**Relevance**				
1.	*2.*	*1.*	*Conformity with ITTO's objectives and priorities*			Y	
1.	*2.*	*2.*	*Relevance to the submitting Country's policies*			Y	
2.			**JUSTIFICATION OF PRE-PROJECT (15)**				
2.	**1.**		**Objectives**		15	Y	9
2.	*1.*	*1.*	*Development objective*	5			
2.	*1.*	*2.*	*Specific objective*	5			
2.	**2.**		**Preliminary problem identification**	5			
3.			**PRE-PROJECT INTERVENTIONS (25)**				
3.			**Outputs and activities**		10	Y	7
3.	**1.**		*Outputs*	5			
3.	**2.**		*Activities, inputs and unit costs*	5			
3.	**3.**		**Approaches and methods**		5		
3.	**4.**		**Work plan**		5		
3.	**5.**		**Budget**		5		
4.			**IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS (15)**				
4.	**1.**		**Executing agency and organizational structure**		5		
4.	**2.**		**Pre-Project Management**		5		
4.	**3.**		**Monitoring and reporting**		5		
				Entire project proposal (60)	100,0%	Y	75%
				Category	1		

Marks indicate:
0 - Information is completely missing
1 - Very poor: some elements are there but the essential ones are missing
2 - Poor: essential elements are incomplete, insufficient, wrong or misunderstood
3 - Moderate: essential elements are available but unclear or inaccurate
4 - Good: clear, accurate and informative
5 - Excellent: clear, accurate, informative and comprehensive (perfectly integrated with other items)

Rating categories:

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

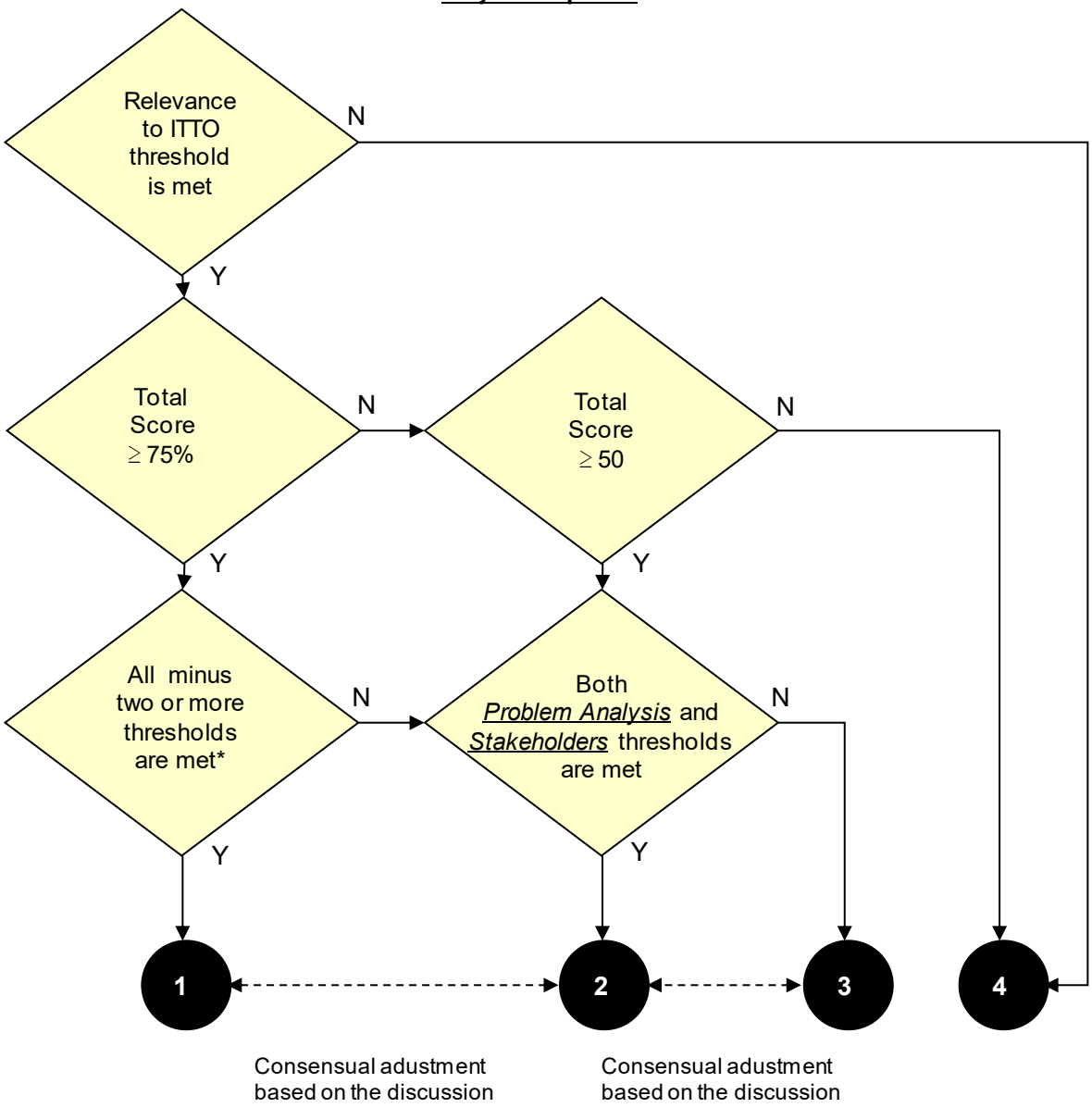
Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the Project Proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee

APPENDIX VI

Flow charts for deciding categories in the scoring system

Project Proposals



*Thresholds failed cannot be any two among the following three:
- Stakeholder
- Logical Framework
- Sustainability

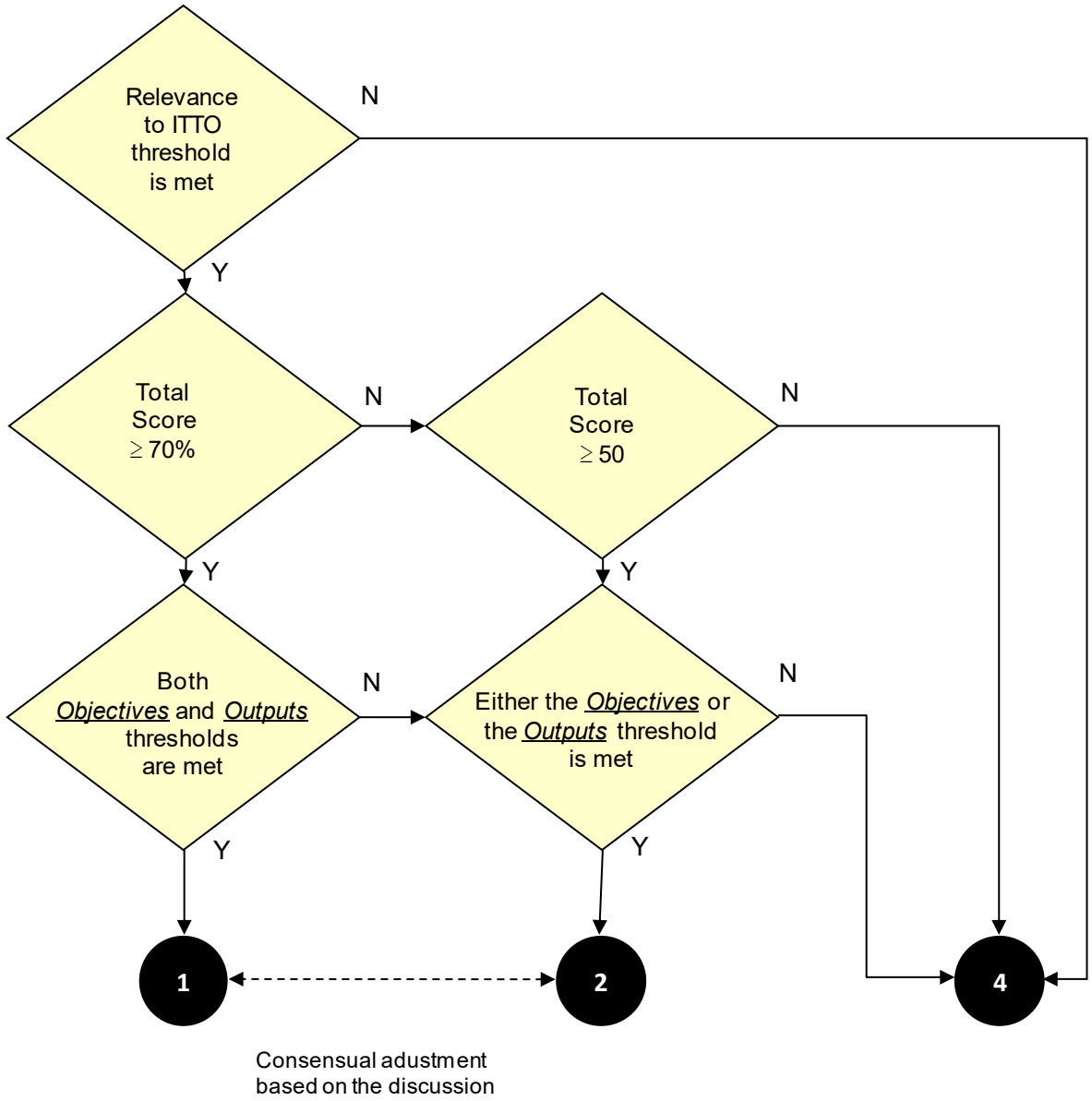
Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.

Category 3: The Panel concluded that the proposal is not accepted because a pre-project proposal is required. According to the indication of the Panel the pre-project shall (a) be submitted to the Expert Panel for appraisal or (b) could be directly submitted to the Committee for appraisal. Proposal is missing fundamental information, consequently a pre-project is required and to be submitted to the EP.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the CommitteeProposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

Pre-Project Proposals



Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.Proposal commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments if any.

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.Proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.

Category 4: The Panel concluded that it could not commend the proposal to the Committee, and submits it to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal. Justification should be given to the proponent and the CommitteeProposal not recommended but submitted to the Committee with the recommendation not to approve the project proposal, (a) either because a complete reformulation is necessary, or (b) because it's not relevant to ITTO. Justification should be given to the proponent and the Committee.

ANNEX

Assessment, recommendation and conclusion by the Sixtieth Expert Panel on each Project and Pre-project Proposal

PD 930/22 Rev.1 (F) Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Forest Management of the Sitatunga Valley Community Natural Park, Benin

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognize the importance of this project which could contribute to the sustainable management of the Sitatunga Valley in Southern Benin, by specifically ensuring the restoration of forest landscapes in the Sitatunga Valley through stakeholder capacity for improving people's living conditions. It was also recognized that efforts had been made to address most of the comments in the overall assessment, as well as most of the specific recommendations made by the Fifty-seventh Expert Panel.

However, the Panel noted that the new Figure 2 "Map of the project area" does not show the project target intervention sites in relation to the 22 community forests (CF) which should be depicted in it. There is a need to clearly explain how the project activities should be planned for implementation in the CFs, as well as in the adjacent lands as appropriate. If it is just the surface are of CFs to be considered as the project intervention target zones, it is relatively small and the very ambitious impact indicators of the development objective and specific objective will not be realized with such size of the project intervention target zones ("degradation process affecting the Sitatunga Valley ecosystems in south Benin is reduced by at least 30%"; "income of people highly dependent on forest resources has been raised by at least 20%."). While the project target zones for enrichment planting (100 ha) and reforestation (100 ha) activities are clearly indicated, there is no explanation on how the estimation of 344 ha was made for landmarking and demarcating boundaries of plantations.

For the Panel, the sustainability of established plantations and enriched CFs is questionable because the project will mobilize subcontractors, so that it could make it difficult to ensure ownership by local communities, which is an important prerequisite for the sustainability of project main achievements. There is no explanation on how, after the project completion, the established plantations and enriched CF-based plantations will be maintained by relevant CF stakeholders because it is well known that planting trees are not enough as in many seedlings do not survive. There is a need to describe in detailed way the target population, including an estimate of the number of beneficiaries, by category or social group (defined with quantitative and qualitative data). The target population could, for example, be broken down into groups such as men, women, youth, forest-dependent families, poor households, and elites.

The Panel noted that the description of Activity 2.3 ("establish green credit loans for financial support to Cf management and selected activities") is not consistent with description in Sub-section 3.1.1 (Outputs) and Section 3.3 (Work plan). This has been added since the last review of the project proposal without clear technical explanation provided in section 3.2 (Implementation approach and methods) on how to administer the budgeted amount of USD10,000 (conditions for lending the money after project completion) while not providing evidence any experience of the project executing agency and collaborating agency regarding the management of green credit loans. It is important to note the main challenge in relation to the project duration of three years making it difficult to have financial returns with some income generating revenue activities (pig, rabbit, snail and cane rat farming and economic reforestation activities, including service wood and firewood from plantations) to pay back green credit loans.

The Panel also noted that Local Community Forest Management Committees (CLGFC) at the local level and the Municipal Committees for the Coordination and Monitoring of Community Forest Integration (CCSIF) at the municipality level have been added. This could be a very valuable new component as local governance is key to the smooth project implementation, but there is a need to specifically describe their role and competences, as well as operational working systems. Activity 3.2 is planned in the second and third years, but in the master budget table (table 3.4.1) there is an amount of USD1,500 budgeted for the first year. Activity 3.4 is missing in the master budget table (table 3.4.1) but it is planned in Section 3.3 (Work plan) while no explanation is provided on how some CFs could be in correlation with the Benin Protected Areas System.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following:

1. Further improve the Figure 2 regarding the map of PNCVS showing the project area, by clearly indicating the project sites to be subject to forest landscape rehabilitation activities (22 Community Forests and adjacent lands).
2. Further improve the section dealing with the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by taking into account the ITTO policy guidelines on gender equality and empowering women (GEEW) and for the environmental and social management guidelines (ESM), mainly in relation to the above overall assessment.
3. Furthermore elaborate the institutional set-up and organizational issues in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation, by providing more information on main institutions to be involved in the project implementation, by including the Local Community Forest Management Committees (CLGFC) and the Municipal Committees for the Coordination and Monitoring of Community Forest Integration (CCSIF) in relation to the above overall assessment.
4. Further improve the project implementation approaches and methods in correlation with the improved Logical Framework Matrix and in relation to the above overall assessment.
5. Further improve the section dealing with the project sustainability by considering the green credit loans and in relation to the above overall assessment, as appropriate.
6. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
    a) Further revise the master budget schedule table (by activity) in correlation with the work plan and its associated activities, in relation to the above overall assessment,
    b) Readjust the budget by component for ITTO and for the Executing Agency in correlation with the further revised master budget,
    c) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

7. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the combined 60th and 61st Expert Panels and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PD 939/24 Rev.1 (F) **Generation of Fundamental Information for the Second Cutting Cycle in the Amazon Rainforest** (Brazil)

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the project aims at generating and disseminating essential information on available timber stocks and production from forests undergoing the second harvest cycle. The Panel noted that the project is strategically positioned to provide groundbreaking evidence for the long-term viability of second-cycle tropical timber harvests. Its novelty, stakeholder breadth, and cost-sharing already make it compelling, but a stronger emphasis on methodology, uptake mechanisms, and sustainability pathways will enhance its potential for success. The Panel also noted that this proposal has been improved compared to the previous one and clearly conveys why realizing a second harvesting cycle is crucial. However, it remains unclear whether ecological challenges, such as the difficulty of securing regeneration after the first harvest reported in recent studies, still persist. In addition, if such ecological or technical challenges for reforestation remain, it might be a good idea to focus on establishing effective reduced impact logging (RIL) methods or forest management good practices after the first harvesting operations.

The Panel acknowledged that efforts had been made to address some comments in the overall assessment, as well as some specific recommendations made by the Fifty-ninth Expert Panel. However, the Panel further noted that there was still a need for improvement of some sections and sub-sections (origin, social, cultural economic and environmental aspects, problem tree its mirrored-version objective tree, logical framework matrix, assumptions and risks, budget components, implementation arrangements, etc.) of the revised project proposal. Some of these sections and sub-sections are considered critical for the successful implementation of an ITTO project (problem tree its mirrored-version objective tree, logical framework matrix, assumptions and risks, budget components). The project proposal requires essential modifications as indicated in specific recommendations, here below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Further improve Section 1.1 (Origin) with appropriate information on the current status of the experimental sites in relation to the assumed feasibility regarding the second cut recycle by clearly explaining how that second-cycle harvesting at their experimental sites is likely to be feasible, which contrasts with what recent studies indicate.
2. Further improve the Sub-section 1.3.2 with additional information focusing on social and cultural aspects in compliance with the ITTO environmental and social management (ESM) guidelines.
3. Further improve the Sub-section 2.1.3 with an appropriate Problem Tree (PT) and its associated Objective Tree (OT), which should mirror each other, following the format required by the ITTO manual for project formulation.
4. Further improve the Logical Framework Matrix in correlation with the Problem Tree and associated Objective Tree, to be further improved, in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation.
5. Further revise the project outputs in correlation with the improved Objective Tree and improved Logical Framework Matrix.
6. Further readjust the list of activities associated to each further revised project output in consistency with the improved Objective Tree.
7. Further improve the work plan in correlation with the improved Objective Tree and readjusted list of activities associated with each project output, as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation.

8. Improve the Section 3.5 by clearly describing how some specific risks could impede the achievement of project outputs or objectives, which are not obstacles to the project's implementation rather than social challenges that the project is intended to address, in consistency with the key assumptions as indicated the further improved logical framework matrix, while also describing main risk mitigation measures to be used during the project implementation.
9. Use in the Sub-section 4.1.3 Project Steering Committee instead of Project Advisory Committee as indicated in the ITTO manual for project formulation.
10. Further improve Section 4.3 by adding appropriate information on how the project will plan to communicate or deliver the project's results to policymakers.
11. Add the environmental and social management (ESM) screening check list questionnaire, as annex, for the assessment of environmental and social aspects linked to the project implementation.
12. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
    a) Further revise the master budget table (by activity but **not by component**) in correlation with the further improved work plan and its associated activities, while complying with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation,
    b) Add the budget table by component of Consolidated Budget (considering ITTO budget and two other funding agencies), as well as the budget table for the counterpart contribution from two other funding agencies (FAPESP and Precious Forest Foundation), in correlation with the further revised master budget table,
    c) Add the budget item 81 by using the standard rate of US$10,000.00 per year for the monitoring and review costs (US$30,000 for 3 years) and the budget item 82 to the standard rate of US$15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs,
    d) Calculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

13. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the combined 60th and 61st Expert Panels and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category B on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PD 942/25 (F) **Developing Silvicultural Management Models for Forest Restoration Based on the Use of Seed Trees for the Establishment of Natural and Artificial Regeneration in the Province of Tahuamanu, Peru**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The panel recognized the significance of the proposal for the long-term conservation of tree species listed under the CITES appendixes and the sustainable use of forest resources. The Panel noted that refinement of the proposal is needed to improve its clarity.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Ensure that the project brief follows the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. It should present in a succinct manner the development and specific objectives, how these will be achieved; how achievement will be measured; expected outputs and outcomes and a description of the main beneficiaries.
2. Revised the list of acronyms to ensure it is completed. For example, meaning of CIP and RAP are missing.
3. Improve the scale and legends of the target area's map focusing on the province of Tahuamanu.
4. Initiatives described under origin, section 1.1, are fragmented. Relationships among the various initiatives could improve the flow on this section.
5. Section 1.3.2 economic, environmental, cultural and social aspects needs to be refined by indicating how these conditions will impact project implementation. Include relevant references of the target area to the ITTO policy guidelines on gender equality and empowering women and for the environmental and social management guidelines.
6. For section 1.4, expected outputs at project completion, it is unclear who are the main beneficiaries and how they will benefit. Clarification should be provided.
7. Section 2.1.1 institutional set-up and organizational issues needs to be focused. The list of institutions involved is extensive, should be narrowed to relevant partners.
8. Objectives should be revised in accordance with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. There should be one development objective and one specific objective. Modifications should be also reflected in the logical framework matrix. In the latter activities should be removed and measurable indicators should be revised (SMART—Specific, measurable, appropriate, realistic, time-bound).
9. Outputs should be redrafted as per pages 39–40 of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. There is only one activity under output 4, thus considering adding relevant activities for its achievement.
10. Divide implementation approaches and methods according to the stages of the project.
11. Budget tables should be presented in a more concise manner. Difference between Forest Coordinator 1 (G) and Forest Coordinator should be provided.
12. Section 3.5.2, sustainability, should also include economic sustainability after project completion.
13. Under implementation arrangements, one entity should be designated as the executive agency responsible for project implementation. There should not be two executive agencies.
14. For section 4.3.2. mainstreaming project learning, clarification should be provided on how project results will be incorporated into general forest management plans and plans of operation.
15. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 60th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PD 949/25 (F) **Strengthening Governance Systems and Local Regulatory Frameworks for the Resilience and Sustainability of Municipal and Community Forests in Western Guatemala**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this proposal for improving local livelihoods while strengthening sustainable forest management in the area. The Panel noted that finetuning is required to improve the specific objectives, approaches and methods.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Improve the analytical summary following the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation, so that it may be more logical and concise. Revise the subheading on financial sustainability, it should include actions by the executing agency and primary stakeholders to sustain project outputs after completion, rather than indicating the ITTO and executive agency's budget sources.
2. Improve the project origin by summarizing the outcomes of ITTO project 721/13 Rev.2 (F) and how these relate to the current proposal.
3. For geographic location, please provide an improved map of the area, indicating the available roads to reach the target area.
4. Social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects, section 1.3.2, should provide current details of these conditions and clarify the current situation on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Scientific names of species used in agroforestry practices should be provided.
5. Section 1.4, expected output at project completion, should be improved to be in line with the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation by describing the transformational changes that the project will bring, the direct and indirect beneficiaries and what actions are expected from them to follow as consequence of the project.
6. Section 2.1.2, stakeholder analysis, should briefly present the opinions of primary stakeholders regarding this proposal.
7. For section 2.1.3, provide a brief and logical description of the problem analysis. The problem tree is missing; it should be provided.
8. The logical framework matrix and the objectives section need to be reformulated. There should be one specific objective, two at the most.
9. Implementation approaches and methods, section 3.2, should be improved in accordance with page 49 of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Tools and methods for strengthening legality and adoption of sustainable practices that reinforce the production chain should be fully described.
10. For the ITTO budget, adjust budget item 82 to USD 15,000 for ex-post evaluation costs. This will imply recalculation of ITTO programme support. Considering increasing the counterpart contribution (currently at around 30% of the total budget).
11. Improve section 3.5.2 of sustainability by following guidance on page 57 of the ITTO Manual for Project Formulation. Include the Environmental and Social Management (ESM) check list as an annex.
12. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 60th Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PD 950/25 (F) **Support to Local Communities for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Mountain Forests in the Sub-Northern Region of Togo**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of the project proposal to rehabilitate mountainous areas in the sub-northern region of Togo, aimed at strengthening and conserving relatively less degraded sites, strengthening agroforestry practices, promoting community forestry, developing reforestation and enrichment programs in degraded areas, and promoting income-generating activities for local communities. The project specially aims to secure and restore mountain forests, as well as develop income-generating activities with minimal impact on the forest, by increasing the farming productivity associated with appropriate forest landscape restoration techniques in order to contribute to improving local people's living conditions in Togo sub-northern area. The Panel noted that the project is well-written and has well-articulated and measurable outcomes. It aligns with ITTO objectives and priorities while complying with Togolese government's national policies and strategies. The Panel also noted that the project proposal still needs some amendments for its improvement in relation to the specific recommendations listed below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Improve the project brief, following the format recommended in the ITTO manual for project formulation, by further describing the existing situation and the problems to be addressed by the project, including the information on agriculture-related activities linked to forest landscape restoration, as well as by making sure to have similar impact indicators as in Sub-section 2.2.1 (Development objective and impact indicators).
2. Improve the main map by replacing it with a map at an appropriate scale clearly indicating the project sites to be subject to forest landscape rehabilitation activities which were identified and selected through the implementation of the pre-project PPD 136/07 Rev.1 (F) leading to the formulation of this project proposal. Maps in Annex 10 should be either improved and inserted in Section 1.3.1 (Geographical location) and removed from Annex 10, while making sure to provide a digitally created map at an appropriate scale and not a hand-drawing map.
3. Improve the project origin by providing clear information on the land status regarding the state forest area, agriculture area and dedicated area for agroforestry contributing to forest landscape restoration.
4. Improve the section dealing with the social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects of the project target area by putting names on local communities and associated villages to be part of the project implementation.
5. Improve the problem analysis by adding elements clearly explaining how the land tenure associated with the rise of population can also contribute to forest landscape degradation in the project target areas, while correlating it with those four main causes indicated in the problem analysis.
6. Properly redefine the project outputs as required in the ITTO manual for project formulation (refer to pages 39 and 40 of the English version).
7. Improve the work plan in correlation with the redefined project outputs, as well as by adding the timeframe for Activity 1.3.
8. Revise the section dealing with the key assumptions and potential risks in consistency with the improved problem analysis, while developing relevant mitigating measures regarding the land tenure risks.
9. Move the organizational structure from Annex 1 to Sub-section 4.1.1 (Executing agency and partners) and improve Section 4.2. (Reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation) in compliance with the requirements of the ITTO manual for project formulation (refer to page 61 of the English version).

10. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the combined 60th and 61st Expert Panels and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PPD 204/23 Rev.1 (F) **Project on Governance of Broadleaved Forests in the Lake Yojoa Region and Resilience of Forest-Related Livelihoods** (Honduras)

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel noted the importance of the proposal which aims to conserve, manage, protect and sustainably harvest the region's broadleaved forests by developing mechanisms that will promote forest landscape restoration and conservation. The panel felt that the proposal hasn't fully addressed the recommendations of the Fifty-eighth Panel and that reformulation is needed to address potential gas and be impactful.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Adress fully recommendations of the Fifthy-eight Panel.
2. Ensure completeness of the list of acronyms. Many of them such as FLEGT VPA, EU, ha, INE, ATL, OCP, AL are currently missing.
3. The origin and justification should articulate clearly how existing programmes are addressing illegal logging. Clarity should be provided on how a value chain study will be the right intervention versus other alternatives.
4. The development objective lacks clear and articulated links on land conversion (especially coffee) as a deforestation driver and how project interventions will address it.
5. Outputs are vague. Need to be refined.
6. Refine the identification of the pre-project activities (there are too many activities within the main scope of a pre-project). Activities don't seem to include capacity building with stakeholders to implement sustainable agroforestry systems, which would seem essential for the development of sustainable commodity/value chains and compliance with traceability.
7. Approaches and methods are vague, need to be revised and refined. Previous recommendation on the use of four consultants for a pre-project has not been addressed.
8. Section 4.1, executing agency and organizational structure, needs to be further improved by describing the involvement and engagement of local participants, their interest in supporting this proposal and their roles and responsibilities.
9. For section 4.2, project management, describe how the proposal directly contributes to institutional development and governance.
10. Include an annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 58th and 60th Expert Panels and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PPD 206/25 (F) **Restoration and Sustainable Management of Gallery Forests in the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve in Benin**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized the importance of this pre-project proposal which could contribute through the future intended project to the conservation and sustainable management of the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve by building the capacities of local people with a view to improving their living conditions. The project to be developed from the implementation of this pre-project will specifically aim to assessing the potential of gallery forests in the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve, with a view to developing an appropriate approach for their sustainable management.

The Panel noted that the pre-project is overall proposing a pre-project development assessment and stakeholder engagement process, which will deliver an analysis of the current state of gallery forests within the Mono Delta Biosphere Reserve, a diagnosis of the current factors contributing to the degradation of these gallery forests, as well as suite of recommended actions in the body of a full project proposal to ITTO. The Panel also noted that the pre-project proposal still needs some amendments for its improvement in relation to the specific recommendations listed here below.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Amend Section 1.2 (Pre-project relevance) of the pre-project proposal by reducing the number of ITTO objectives to those which are closely correlated to the identified key problem that the future intended project will contribute to address during its implementation.
2. Amend Section 3.4 (Work plan) by appropriately assigning responsibilities to the collaborating agency (CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF) in the table 3.4.
3. Improve Section 4.1 (Executing agency and organizational structure) by adding relevant information on the collaborating agency (CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF), as well as describing its roles and responsibilities in the pre-project implementation, while adding an organizational chart.
4. Add in Annex 1 the Profile of the collaborating agency (CENTRE NATIONAL DE GESTION DES RÉSERVES DE FAUNE—CENAGREF).
5. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the combined 60th and 61st Expert Panels and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PPD 208/25 (F) **Study for the Restoration and Sustainable Management of Forest Resources in the Mô Plain, Togo**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel acknowledged the relevance of this pre-project proposal which could contribute to the development and sustainable management of the Mono Plain forests in Togo, as a way of improving environmental conditions and local community's standard of living. The project to be developed from the implementation of this pre-project will intend to contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of forest ecosystems in the Mô Plain (Togo) while specifically aiming to support local communities with developing a project for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity in the Mô Plain (Togo).

The Panel noted that the pre-project proposal was well formulated but there was still a need for improvement in the following sections and sub-sections: (1) there was a need to some relevant information on the preliminary meetings which were held with relevant stakeholders; (2) the development objective was is too general and not formulated as required in the ITTO manual for project and pre-project formulation; (3) data analysis not clearly described in the Section 3.3. (Approaches and methods); (4) the key problem and its main causes and effects not clearly explained in relation to relevant stakeholders impacted by the identified key problem to be addressed by the future intended project; (5) there is a need to reformulate the first output with as required in the ITTO manual for project and pre-project formulation; (6) the amount of ITTO budget is too high for a pre-project.

B) Specific Recommendations

The proposal should be revised taking into account the overall assessment **and** the following specific recommendations:

1. Improve the Section 1.1 (Origin and justification) of the pre-project proposal by adding the summary of the key findings of the preliminary meetings which were held with relevant stakeholders of the target area of the future project in the Mô Plain, Togo.
2. Amend the development objective, which is too general, by stating it as the development objective of the future project to be developed from the pre-project implementation, for the aim of contributing to addressing the identified key problem. This development objective should have a clear relationship with ITTO's objectives and priorities, while also complying with the host country's forest-related policies and strategies.
3. Provide additional explanatory elements in sub-section f (Data analysis) of Section 3.3. (Approaches and methods) regarding the analysis method of data which should be gathered to support the formulation of a full project proposal document.
4. Further describe in the preliminary problem identification, the key problem and its main causes and effects, by providing additional elements on how relevant stakeholders affected by the identified key problem could benefit from the future intended project to be formulated during the pre-project implementation.
5. Reformulate the first output with sufficiently clear qualitative and quantitative terms, as finished or completed results, by using the past tense as required in the ITTO manual for project and pre-project formulation.
6. Amend the ITTO budget in line with the above overall assessment **and** specific recommendations, and also in the following way:
    a) Readjust the ITTO budget by appropriately reducing it to a total amount less than USD100,000 because the current ITTO budget is for an ITTO small project rather than for a pre-project,

b) Recalculate the ITTO Programme Support Costs (sub-item 83) of the readjusted ITTO budget so as to conform with standard rate of **12%** of the total ITTO project costs (on budget items 10 to 82); and

7. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the combined 60th and 61st Expert Panels and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold and underline**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with incorporation of amendments.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PD 937/25 (I) **Strengthening the Development of Micro, Small and Medium Forest Enterprises in Guatemala through Forest-Industry-Market Integration**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The Panel recognized that the aim of this project proposal is to improve business competitiveness of forest micro, small and medium enterprises in Guatemala, strengthening their business governance with sustainable practices.

The Panel also recognized that the project proposal was consistent with ITTO's mandate and objectives as set out in ITTA 2006 and had clearly defined outputs in line with the ITTO Strategic Action Plan.

However, the proposal needs to be further refined as there are a number of weaknesses in some sections of the project proposal, such as geographic location; social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects; institutional set up and organizational issues; stakeholder analysis; outputs and activities; implementation approaches and methods; workplan; budget; assumptions, risks and sustainability; implementation arrangements; reporting, review, monitoring and evaluation; and dissemination and mainstreaming project learning.

The project is a Category B on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist. It is suggested the specific recommendations mentioned below for that purpose.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Improve the map by clearly indicating where the project will be developed and the access routes to it, and specifying the spatial characteristics relevant for the project.
2. Describe the relation of socio-economic aspects and situation of Forest MSMEs, include more information on the gender, age, and education of project beneficiaries.
3. Describe the partners adequately, such as TIKONEL and related training centres and universities, and include a description of other project allies listed in the table of actors and beneficiaries.
4. Clearly specify the role of primary stakeholders, and include universities or other important training centers to support the training.
5. Use SMART indicators in logical framework matrix, add number of business plans as the means of verification.
6. Make clear who will organize and offer the annual course, training centres or INAB.
7. Describe the implementation approaches and methods more comprehensively, including the woman's participation in the implementation of the project.
8. Ensure consistency of the workplan with the budget, identify responsibilities for the various activities, including for the project coordinator, and clarify the responsibilities of "external personnel".
9. Review the budget in order to balance the contributions of ITTO and the executing agency. Consider the possibility of reducing the number of consultants. Increase the counterpart of the executing agency.
10. Describe assumptions and risks more comprehensively. Show the risk mitigation measures to be employed and how they should be monitored in the course of project implementation.
11. Describe sustainability more comprehensively, and specifically in technical, financial, social, economic and institutional terms.
12. For Executing Agency and Partners, clearly describe partners and present an organizational chart in the text or as an annex.
13. Improve stakeholder involvement mechanisms by involving more stakeholders such as independent experts, governments, NGOs, academia.
14. Provide monitoring and monitoring schedule based on indicators.

15. Improve the dissemination of project results by securing the communication activities through respective budget or describe it as INAB activity.
16. Improve terms of reference of key personnel and consultants to be funded by ITTO.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised proposal before it can commend it to the Committee.

PD 948/25 (M) **Experimental Commercial Plantations of Caoba (*Swietenia macrophylla*) in the Northen Coastal Area of Peru**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The proposed project aims at conserving and promoting endangered forest species with its specific objective to establish experimental commercial plantations in order to lay the technical and economic foundations for large-scale initiatives. The panel noted that the project proposal stems from the achievements of PD 923/23 (F) and is well formulated in major parts. However, the proposal missed explanations on the Objective of ITTA 2006, ITTO Program Lines, Guidelines for Environmental and Social Management, and Guidelines on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. The project objectives and outputs are well formulated, but the panel recognized that some improvements need to be made to the proposal, including the need to revise the problem and solution trees in conformity with the formulated project's objectives and outputs.

The project proposal is adequately presented meeting requirements established by the ITTO under the Manual for project Formulation and other requirements.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. In Section 3.2 Work Plan, clarify the difference between "Technical Information Guide" under Activity 2.3 and "development of a technical handbook" under Activity 3.3;

2. In Section 4.1.3 Project Steering Committee (PSC), given the technical nature of the project, establish a Project Technical Committee (PTC) that supports the conduct of the PSC with technical information as well as field data information. Technical committee task will include field trip to project site;

3. Referring to the attached ITTO environmental and social screening checklist questionnaire, amend the project proposal as necessary, particularly in Principle 5 Section: Security of tenure to forest land and access to forest resources; and

4. Include an Annex that shows the overall assessment and specific recommendations of the Sixtieth Expert Panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted (**bold** and underline) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 1: The Panel concluded that the proposal could be commended to the Committee with the incorporation of amendments suggested above.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

PPD 207/25 (I) **Strengthening the value chain and sustainable marketing of lesser-used timber species in allocated areas of Honduras (LUTS-Phase II)**

Assessment by the Sixtieth Panel

A) Overall Assessment

The proposal seeks to address constrains faced in the use and marketing of lesser-used timber species (LUTS) using a value chain approach to improve the conditions for the production, processing and marketing of forest products derived from these LUTS across a significant portion of Honduras. The project is a continuation of Phase I that focuses on technical and organizational training programs with focus on conservation and sustainable utilization of these timber species.

The project aligns with ITTO objectives, and with the objectives of the home country, however the proposal does not fully meet some requirements of the ITTO Manual for project Formulation and need some revisions and modifications.

B) Specific Recommendations

1. Section 1.1. Provide the names of the 12 LUTS identified for which strategies are to be developed for their marketing and refer to some concrete results achieved in Phase I with regards to the LUTS.

2. Section 1.3.1. The map should provide clarity of geographic location of Honduras and depicts sites of where the project will be executes. This is well illustrated in Phase I.

3. Section 2.1.1. The organogram presented is not very legible. Clearer one should be provided to enable better visualization of the ICF structure.

4. Section 2.2. The specific objective is too broad and needs to be addressed using SMART approach.

5. Section 3. It is important to note that, given the amount of projects fund requested, the project is a full project proposal under the classification of ITTO projects. In this regard proponent should note this in their review. The next review will be based on full proposal review.

6. Section 3.1.1. Indicate how many business plans and if they are species / location specific for all 12 LUTS and the differing regions. The operational strengthening output (O3) is quite vague, and clarity should be provided. What kind of tools and equipment are to be procured and what is the unit cost.

7. Section 3.2. The implementation approach is vague and lacking details. What was carried out in Phase I hat needing amplification in Phase II especially as the focus is training on marketing of LUTS taking congnizance of supply chains challenges.

8. In section 3.4 The unit cost of a business plan development is on the higher side ($15,000) was this not going to be devolved under Phase I. More clarity is needed and cost to be reviewed in downwards or provide enough justification.

9. The section on implementation arrangements will have to follow that of a full project proposal (PD not PPD). Proponent to note and expand this portion to include who will be members of project management team (4.1.2) Project steering committee (4.1.3), stakeholder involvement mechanism (4.1.4).

10. Include an Annex that shows the responses to the above overall assessment and specific recommendations of the 60th panel and respective modifications in tabular form. Modifications should also be highlighted

(**bold and underlined**) in the text.

C) Conclusion

Category 2: The Panel concluded that the project proposal requires essential modifications and will be returned to the proponent. The Panel will need to assess the revised project proposal before it can commend it to the Committee for final appraisal.

Category C on the Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (ESM) checklist.

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