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**COMMITTEE ON
REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

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**REPORT ON COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PRE-PROJECTS
IN THE FIELD OF REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT**

IX. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat has received the Project Completion Report, the Final Technical Report and Financial Audit Report, this project can be reported as completed.

(5) PD 17/98 Rev.3 (F) **Forest Inventory and Production of Management Plans for Areas of Reserved Production Forests in the First Forest Zone of Gabon (Phase II - stratification of 1st zone), Stages I and II (Gabon)**

Budget and Funding Sources:

Total Budget:		US\$	1,587,203
ITTO Budget Stage I:		US\$	635,651
Government of Japan:	US\$	510,651	
Government of USA:	US\$	75,000	
Government of Canada:	US\$	50,000	
Government of Gabon Stage I:		US\$	390,647
ITTO Budget Stage II:		US\$	339,401
Government of Japan:	US\$	339,401	
Government of Gabon Stage II:		US\$	221,504

Implementing Agency: Direction des Inventaires, des Aménagement et de la Rénégeneration des Forêts (DIARF)

Session of Approval: ITTC Session XXIV, May 1998, Libreville, Gabon

Starting Date and Duration: Stage I: July 1998 / Twelve months
Stage II: March 1999 / Fifteen months

Approved Revised Date of Project Completion: April 2001 (CRF XXVII)

I. Introduction

The project was approved by the Council at its Twenty-fourth Session in May 1998 as a continuation of the earlier project PD 8/95 Rev.1 (F) "Multiple Resources Stratification, Mapping and Inventory for the First Forest Zone in Gabon - Phase I". The project PD 17/98 Rev.3 has been split into two stages due to financial constraints. The first stage was financed during ITTC(XXIV), while the funding for the second stage was fully secured during ITTC(XXV). Project Agreements were signed in July 1998 and in February 1999 respectively.

II. Project Objective

The project intends to manage and plan Gabon's first forest area with a perspective of sustainable development and to manage the forest in accordance with the principles of sustainable output, aiming at restoring and improving the social, economic, ecological, biological and environmental functions of the forest.

More specifically, the objectives include:

- The collection of useful and necessary information for the development of management plans for the forests selected with the aid of a multi-resource inventory and additional studies; and
- The development of a management plan.

III. Project Strategy and Activities

The project conducted a multi-resource inventory and other relevant studies in order to develop a comprehensive management plan.

Project activities included:

- 1) Interpretation of aerial photographs and mapping;
- 2) Forest planning inventory;
- 3) Studies on environmental, socio-economic and agroforestry aspects;
- 4) Data analysis and synthesis of studies; and
- 5) Development of a management plan.

IV. Project Achievements and Outputs

The following outputs have been achieved during the implementation of the project:

1. Acquisition of aerial photographs of all project areas;
2. Photo interpretation and maps at scales of 1:50,000 and 1:10,000;
3. A forest inventory center with infrastructure, equipment and trained personnel;
4. Data analysis and data interpretation and Geographical Information System; and
5. A management plan developed on the basis of the forest inventory results and studies on ecology, socio-economic aspects and agriculture.

V. Target Beneficiaries Involvement

The principal beneficiary was the DIARF which will make the information available to other government agencies.

VI. Lessons Learnt

The finalization of the inventory report parallel to the development of the management plan in the project design has created difficulties. Ideally the management plan should be finalized based on the final outputs of the inventory report. The project promotes better cooperation among the stakeholders through establishment of a working group which consist of the government agencies, representatives of forest industry and local community.

VII. Dissemination of Results

The management plan and the technical reports have been made available to the government agencies and other stakeholders.

VIII. Recommendation Related to Future Work

Further studies to refine the resource assessments prescribed under the management plan should include:

- Growth of different tree species;
- A market study for commercial tree species;
- Evaluation of logging damage;
- A review of the taxation system; and
- Development of operational manuals for the forestry sector.

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