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Extension of Activity to Facilitate a Joint ITTO-ECE/FAO-EUROSTAT- FAO Forestry Statistics Questionnaire

Introduction

Following discussions with the participating organizations, within the Secretariat and with interested member countries, a decision has been taken to seek funding to continue ITTO's work to facilitate the Joint Questionnaire (JQ).

Activities

Two activities are foreseen under this extension:

1. Participation in Work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Statistics (IWGFS)
As noted in the report on the Joint Questionnaire activity (CEM(XXIII)/6), further work is required by the IWGFS to finalize the Joint Questionnaire, particularly with respect to definitions, supplementary tables, computerization of the tables, distribution logistics and timing, and common format, etc. Meetings have been proposed in January and April 1999 in Geneva and Brussels to finalize the Joint Questionnaire so that it will be ready for distribution by May 1999. A meeting of the IWGFS to review results of the Joint Questionnaire will be convened together with the meeting of the ECE/FAO Timber Committee's Working Party on Forest Economics and Statistics in September or October 1999.
2. ITTO Database Development
Concurrent with development of the Joint Questionnaire, there is a pressing need to improve data handling/analysis capacity in the ITTO Secretariat. This work was originally planned to be carried out in 1998-99 under the ITTO administrative budget, but has been shelved due to budget shortfalls. This activity will include programming a new database structure, testing the system, inputting all historical data and providing support for the system during the first year of operation, especially during the preparation of the Annual Review. Preliminary discussions with several software development companies indicate that development of such a system using ITTO's existing software (ACCESS/EXCEL) would take 3-4 months. The budget estimates given here are based on the lowest quotes received from these companies.

Proposed Budget

| Activity | Cost (US\$) |
|--|------------------|
| 1. Participation in work of IWGFS (2 or 3 meetings in 1999) | US\$20,000 |
| 2.1 Database programming and testing, data input (3-4 man-months) | US\$20,000 |
| 2.2 Database support in 1999 | US\$5,000 |
| 3. ITTO administrative support (11%) | <u>US\$4,950</u> |
| Total | US\$49,950 |