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

**(2) PPD 60/02 Rev.1 (F) Development of a Strategy and Planning of Measures for the Management of the Assoukoko Natural Reserved Forest and Adele Community Forests with a View to their Sustainable Management by Local Communities in accordance with ITTO Criteria & Indicators (US\$ 50,286) (Togo)**

**I. Introduction**

This 8-month pre-project was submitted by the Government of Togo and was approved during the Thirty-third Session of the ITTC in Yokohama (Japan) in November 2002. Full financing for the pre-project was made available at the same Session of the Council. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the pre-project was signed on 10 June 2003. The first disbursement of funds was made in August 2003. The completion suffered further delays by the Executing Agency.

**II. Pre-project Objective**

The objective of this pre-project was to contribute to increasing timber production through the sustainable management of natural forests in the Adele Area. This pre-project specifically aimed at developing a Strategy and a Management Plan with the participation of local communities, all based on ITTO Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management.

**III. Pre-project Strategy and Activities**

The strategy adopted by the Executing Agency for the implementation of this pre-project was based on a full consultation of local communities since the conception phase and their involvement in the execution of most of the pre-project activities. This contributed to the development of a strategy for the rehabilitation and management of the "Assoukoko-Adele" degraded forest lands in the center-western region of Togo, and to the formulation of a project proposal to implement the aforementioned strategy.

**IV. Pre-project Achievements and Outputs**

The pre-project was completed in August 2005. In accordance with the pre-project document, planned activities were carried out during the pre-project's lifespan and can be summarized as follows:

- Awareness campaigns were undertaken in order to get the involvement of local populations in the management process of Assoukoko natural gazetted forests and Adele community forests;
- The demarcation of the Assoukoko natural forest and Adele community forest was undertaken in consultation with local communities and traditional chiefs, and materialized in the field with boundary stones;
- The forestry study, mapping and inventory had been carried out by a national consultant;
- The socio-economic, land tenure and environmental studies had been completed by a national consultant; and
- The Final Technical Report regarding the strategy for the rehabilitation and management of Assoukoko natural forests and Adele community forests had been completed; and
- A project proposal on the implementation of the above-mentioned strategy was formulated.

**V. Target Beneficiaries Involvement**

Stakeholders from governmental, non-governmental and private sectors and from local communities actively participated in the surveys carried out by the Executing Agency in order to develop the "Assoukoko-Adele" strategy for the rehabilitation and management of degraded forest lands in that part of Togo.

**VI. Lessons Learnt**

**Development Lessons**

The collaborative nature of the project, which was based on a full consultation of local communities to identify their needs, facilitated the involvement of local communities in the implementation of the pre-project.

The partnership established among stakeholders operating in the "Assoukoko-Adele" region was the basis for a smooth implementation of the pre-project activities leading to the development of a strategy for the rehabilitation and management of the "Assoukoko-Adele" degraded forest lands. It is expected that the

implementation of the project proposal formulated to implement this strategy will facilitate the participation of local communities, as recommended by a strategy.

### Operational lessons

The monitoring of the pre-project progress through regular review meetings contributed to its successful execution, as the respective roles and responsibilities of pre-project partners were clearly defined at the beginning of the pre-project. However, the implementation of the pre-project suffered of some delay, due to bureaucratic procedures between the executing agency (an NGO) and the collaborating agency (a governmental institution), at the start of the pre-project.

## **VII. Dissemination of Results**

The results of the pre-project were disseminated through a range of different mechanisms, including:

- Information and awareness campaigns conducted through farmers and village associations, religious institutions, and traditional chiefs;
- Regular consultations among stakeholders; and
- Final workshop held for the validation of the strategy for the rehabilitation and management of the "Asoukoko-Adele" degraded forest lands and for the validation of the draft project proposal to be submitted to ITTO.

The Completion Report and other Technical and Consultant Reports are available upon request from the Secretariat.

## **VIII. Recommendations Related to Future Work**

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of similar pre-projects in the future, the executing and collaborating agencies recommended that a pre-project aiming at involving local communities for its implementation should be guided by a full and wide consultation with local communities.

## **IX. Concluding Remarks**

As the Completion Report, the Final Technical Report and the draft Project Proposal have been received by the ITTO Secretariat, the Pre-project PPD 60/02 Rev.1 (F) can be reported as completed, pending receipt of an acceptable Final Financial Audit Report.

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