



FINAL COMMUNIQUE

The Second Regional Workshop on the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests was held on 8–12 May 2017 in the City of Cotonou, Republic of Benin, in Benin Atlantic Beach Hotel. The workshop was attended by ITTO Focal Points and Experts involved in the promotion of sustainable forest management (SFM) through the use of principles, criteria and indicators (PCI) from 12 out of 13 ITTO member countries in the Africa region: Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Madagascar, Mozambique and Togo.

At the workshop completion, the participants made the following recommendations:

Recommendations	Responsible party	Remarks
1) Revise the ATO-ITTO PCI for SFM, in order to ensure consistency with the 2016 set of ITTO criteria and indicators, as well as with the voluntary guidelines for SFM, and also disseminate in ITTO member countries the revised version	ITTO and member countries	Adaptation and implementation of PCI
2) Train stakeholders' representatives (including SFM auditors) and reinforce the collaboration among them (and also with training and research institutions) for the implementation of PCI and SFM audits in all ITTO member countries	Member countries and Focal Points	Reinforcement of capacities for PCI implementation
3) Put in place a mechanism ensuring permanent consultations among all stakeholders, on the model of NWG, for debates on topics of common interest and for the promotion of Gender issues	Member countries and NWG	Improvement of forest-related governance
4) Take into account the landscape dimension in the SFM implementation aspects, at the national level, in relation to the environmental impact of all stakeholders operating in the same landscape	ITTO and member countries	During the development of PCIV
5) Prepare projects involving several countries and regional and sub-regional institutions in order to facilitate access to available innovative funds and encourage the accreditation national bodies	Regional institutions, member countries and Focal Points	Cooperation between countries



6) Networking the workshop participants for revising the ATO-ITTO PCI at regional et national levels	ITTO	Exchange of information
7) Encourage ITTO member countries to develop, implement and enforce the land use plans as a basis for solving tenure conflicts impacting SFM	Member countries	Multi-stakeholders consultation process
8) Develop programmes for the training and capacity building of stakeholders' representatives (in centralized and decentralized public institutions) taking into account the ITTO voluntary guidelines and the ATO-ITTO PCI for SFM, with the purpose of ensuring the monitoring, control and evaluation of the implementation of SFM standards	Member countries (Universities and training institutions)	Upon adoption of revised PCI
9) Promote the value-added process for goods and services provided by forests through SFM	Member countries (Ministry in charge of forestry)	Revise the laws conflicting with SFM
10) Encourage ITTO member countries in Africa to be represented in important international meetings and convene information sharing meetings in each country for the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of these meetings	Ministries and NGOs	Harmonization of points of view

ATO: African Timber Organization

ITTO: International Tropical Timber Organization

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization

NWG: National Working Group for SFM

ONG: Principles, Criteria, Indicators and Verifiers

SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

Done in Cotonou, 12 May 2017

The workshop