

ITTO annual report 2015



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The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is an intergovernmental organization promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources. Its members represent the bulk of the world's tropical forests and of the global tropical timber trade. ITTO develops internationally agreed policy documents to promote sustainable forest management and forest conservation and assists tropical member countries to adapt such policies to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects. In addition, ITTO collects, analyzes and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber and funds projects and other actions aimed at developing sustainable forest industries at both the community and industrial scales. Since it became operational in 1987, ITTO has funded more than 1000 projects, pre-projects and activities valued at more than US\$400 million. All projects are funded by voluntary contributions, the major donors to date being the governments of Japan and the United States of America.

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Front-cover photos: *Background image*—Tropical forest in Mexico. Photo: G. Sánchez Vigil, gerardosanchezvigil@gmail.com.

Left inset—Red cedar sawn timber in Guyana. Photo: P. Bholanath/GFC. *Middle inset*—*Cedrela odorata* in Bacalar, Mexico.

Photo: B. Rodriguez, INIFAP. *Right inset*—Young man making a winnowing basket using bamboo in Lohaghat, Uttarakhand, India.

Photo: D. Verma/ITTO Fellow

Back-cover photos: *Left inset*—A heron in flooded forest in Veracruz, Mexico. Photo: G. Sánchez Vigil. *Middle inset*—A community tree nursery in Mexico. Photo: D. Douterlungne/PRONATURA, AC. *Right inset*—Firefighters in Costa Rica. Photo: L. Capelli

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Message from the Officer-in-Charge



ITTO made significant progress in 2015 in fulfilling its mandate of promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources, implementing a wide range of targeted projects and activities and contributing strongly to productive partnerships with diverse organizations and stakeholders.

2015 was also an immensely challenging year for the Organization, with a declining trend in funding for projects and activities, the failure to appoint a new Executive Director, and—most serious of all—an impairment of investments made in 2013 and 2014, leading to the loss of a significant amount of the Organization's resources for funding projects.

ITTO has a long track record of managerial and financial competence. The impairment of investments, therefore, is both an anomaly and a very serious challenge for the Organization. Since it first came to light at the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council, the Organization has worked diligently to determine both the facts of the matter and the best way to move forward. The Council will address the issue further at its 52nd session in November 2016.

Meanwhile, ITTO's core business of promoting SFM in the tropics has continued. Projects completed in 2015 have been influential in restoring tropical forests in Minas Gerais, Brazil; improving silvicultural practices for cedar and mahogany in Mexico; improving planting stock in Côte d'Ivoire; bringing socioeconomic development to the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve in Colombia; creating enabling conditions for REDD+ in the Meru Betiri National Park in Indonesia; empowering women to transform degraded lands into livelihoods in Ghana; demarcating land in Togo's Eto-Lili Forest Complex; improving

livelihoods and promoting the conservation of *Shorea* species in Kalimantan, Indonesia; changing fire management models in Guatemala; and marketing native tree species and thus improving livelihoods in Peru.

Projects and activities completed in 2015 under the Tropical Forest Law Enforcement and Trade (TFLET) thematic programme have improved the participation of civil society in forest law enforcement in Ghana; increased the technical capacity of native communities in the Peruvian Amazon; and assisted industries and the forest authority in Papua New Guinea to implement chain of custody and deter illegal logging. The Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES) thematic programme has assisted with establishing schemes for payments for environmental services in China and Ecuador, and it has helped create baseline data for carbon sequestration in the forests of Indonesia and Peru. The Trade and Market Transparency (TMT) thematic programme helped develop a market information system for Guyana's forest sector. This annual report contains details of these and other projects carried out by the Organization under its thematic and regular project programmes in 2015.

ITTO continued providing reliable information and data on tropical timber production and trade in 2015 by publishing the *Biennial Review and Assessment of the World Timber Situation 2013–2014* and *Europe's Changing Tropical Timber Trade* (the baseline report of the Independent Market Monitoring project for the European Union's timber legality system); launching www.tropicaltimber.info, a website to provide information on lesser-used tropical timber species; and supporting the creation of a timber trade portal in partnership with the European Timber Trade Federation. ITTO also convened an international symposium to analyze illegal logging and associated trade and continued its work under the ITTO–CITES Programme to promote the conservation, sustainable use and legal trade of tree species such as African cherry, afrormosia, agarwood, assamela, big-leaf mahogany, cedar, ramin and *Dalbergia*. ITTO also conducted training on the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests*, which the Council approved in 2014.

ITTO was involved in a wide range of international processes during the year. Our contributions to the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration, for example, included the commissioning of three case studies on forest restoration. We presented the results of ITTO projects on forest fire prevention and management at the Sixth International Wildland Fire Conference; continued our field work on the conservation of forest

biodiversity under the Joint ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity; and supported the harmonization of the ITTO criteria and indicators with those developed by the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization under the Tarapoto Process. Reports on all these policy activities, along with information on other ITTO endeavours and achievements in 2015, can be found in the pages of this publication.

Finally, I am delighted that the Organization continued to expand in 2015, with the accession of Croatia and Thailand to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) 2006, bringing ITTO's membership to 72, its largest ever.

I have no doubt that the Organization has the capacity to confront and deal with its present challenges and emerge stronger than ever. ITTO's strength derives from the spirit of collaboration, goodwill and common cause that exists among our members, donors, partners, executing agencies, consultants and my colleagues in the Secretariat, whom I had the honour of leading in 2015 and into 2016.

Steven E. Johnson
Officer-in-Charge
September 2016



Watering: Staff tend to tree seedlings in a nursery supported by ITTO project PD 678-12 Rev.1 (M) in Benin. Photo: PAGEFCOM

ITTO timeline of key achievements

ITTO's mission is to facilitate discussion, consultation and international cooperation on issues relating to the international trade and utilization of tropical timber and the sustainable management of its resource base.

Year	Title
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first ITTA is adopted
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ITTA 1983 comes into force
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITTO is established in Yokohama, Japan
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first <i>Annual Review and Assessment of the World Tropical Timber Situation</i> is produced The first pre-projects are approved and funded
1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No Timber without Trees</i> is published, reporting a negligible area of tropical forest under sustainable forest management (SFM) in ITTO member countries The funding of projects begins The ITTO Fellowship Programme is launched Annual market discussions begin
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests</i> (the first set of guidelines of its kind) is published The ITTO Year 2000 Objective is adopted
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITTO defines SFM ITTO launches <i>Criteria for the Measurement of Sustainable Natural Tropical Forest Management</i> (the world's first internationally agreed set of criteria for SFM)
1993	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>ITTO Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests</i> are published <i>ITTO Guidelines on the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Tropical Production Forest</i> are published
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new ITTA is agreed, establishing the Bali Partnership Fund
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ITTA 1994 enters into force The <i>Annual Review and Assessment of the World Tropical Timber Situation</i> becomes the <i>Annual Review and Assessment of the World Timber Situation</i> under the new ITTA <i>ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests</i> are published <i>World Mangrove Atlas</i> is published The Council's Informal Advisory Group is established
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests</i> are published, updating the original criteria
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent diagnostic missions begin assisting countries in identifying actions to achieve Objective 2000 The Trade Advisory Group is established
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ITTO provides resources for improving forest law enforcement in the context of SFM
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests</i> are developed The Civil Society Advisory Group is established
2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised criteria and indicators for SFM are published, with a reporting format <i>Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forestry Sector</i> is published

Year	Title
2006	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new ITTA is agreed, focusing on the world timber economy, the sustainable management of the resource base, increasing the value of non-timber forest products and environmental services, and encouraging the trade of timber from legal and sustainable sources • <i>Status of Tropical Forest Management 2005</i>, a comprehensive survey of tropical forest management, is published. The estimated area of tropical forest under SFM in ITTO producer member countries is 36 million hectares
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised guidelines for the conservation of biological diversity in tropical production forests are field-tested • ITTO co-convenes a landmark international conference on forest tenure
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITTO launches thematic programmes on a pilot basis • <i>ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Tropical Production Forests</i> are published
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>World Atlas of Mangroves</i> is published
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ITTA 2006 enters into force • <i>Status of Tropical Forest Management 2011</i> is published. The estimated area of tropical forest under SFM in ITTO producer member countries is 53 million hectares
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic programmes are fully incorporated in the work of ITTO
2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITTO develops a knowledge management strategy • ITTO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux combine in an initiative to promote the further processing of timber in the Congo Basin
2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITTO adopts the <i>Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests</i> • ITTO co-convenes a ground-breaking international forum on payments for environmental services of tropical forests • The Council debates and endorses a major study on the economic impact of government procurement policies on tropical timber markets • The Council reviews and endorses the <i>Technical Guide on the Quantification of Carbon Benefits in ITTO Projects</i> • ITTO extends its collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and supports conservation areas in 20 countries through the ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative • ITTO establishes the Independent Market Monitoring (IMM) system for monitoring the reception of FLEGT-licensed timber in the European Union • ITTO develops an online project search tool and launches an electronic newsletter to enhance knowledge sharing
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITTO membership reaches 72, the highest ever • <i>Europe's Changing Tropical Timber Trade</i> is published, based on the findings of the IMM • ITTO co-organizes an international symposium on combating illegal logging and associated trade • ITTO supports the creation and launching of the timber trade portal www.timbertradeportal.com • ITTO launches a dedicated website to promote information on tropical lesser-used timber species at www.tropicaltimber.info • ITTO develops environmental product declarations for meranti plywood in Malaysia and Indonesia, khaya lumber in Ghana, and ipê decking in Brazil



Trekking to project site: ITTO project PD 635/12 Rev.2 (F) is helping improve management in the buffer zone of Pulong Tau National Park in Sarawak, Malaysia. Photo: W. Cluny

Meru Betiri National Park,
Indonesia. Photo: FORDA

1 51st Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees

16–21 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The International Tropical Timber Council is ITTO's governing body. It meets at least once a year to discuss wide-ranging issues with the aim of promoting sustainable tropical forest management and the trade of sustainably produced tropical timber.

The 51st Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Sessions of the Committees (Economics, Statistics and Markets; Finance and Administration; Forest Industry; and Reforestation and Forest Management) was opened by the Council Chair, Dr B.C.Y. Freezailah (Malaysia) in the presence of H.E. Dato' Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, Malaysia's Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities; H.E. Ngole Philip Ngwese, Cameroon's Minister of Forests and Wildlife; H.E. Barbara Serwah Asamoah, Ghana's Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources; and Dr Manoel Sobral Filho, Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF).

In his opening remarks, Dr Freezailah noted that his country was a founding member of ITTO, and he expressed appreciation for the Organization's role in enhancing expertise in tropical forestry through its programmes and projects. He further pointed out some of the challenges faced by member countries in implementing sustainable forest management and said that overcoming these will require further work by ITTO. Dr Freezailah urged members to build on the process commenced in 2014 to appoint a new executive director by consensus, and he introduced the four candidates under consideration: Dr Gerhard Dieterle (Germany); Mr Eduardo Mansur (Brazil); Ms Sheamala Satkuru-Granzella (Malaysia); and Dr Ivan Tomaselli (Brazil, absent). Dr Freezailah concluded his opening remarks by acknowledging the support and assistance of the ITTO Secretariat, led by the Officer-in-Charge, Dr Steven Johnson.

Dr Johnson reported that, since the previous session, two countries, Croatia and Thailand, had acceded to the ITTA 2006, bringing the ITTO membership to 72. He highlighted the worrying recent trend in which increasingly few new projects have received funding; for example, the number of approved projects lapsing under the provisions of the sunset clause had exceeded the number of new projects funded in both 2014 and 2015.



Ready to start the work: Opening ceremony of the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Organization.



Paying attention: Council members consider the results of a voting round for the election of a new executive director.

Funding of US\$3.7 million¹ was announced during the session for:

- The following activities under the 2015–2016 Biennial Work Programme:
 - work on criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management
 - ITTO's involvement in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests
 - the participation of the Civil Society Advisory Group and the Trade Advisory Group (TAG) in ITTO
 - the ITTO–CITES Programme for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Timber Species.
- A project to assist in the promotion of intra-African trade in tropical timber and timber products.
- The Freezailah Fellowship Fund, for 18 new fellowships.

¹ Two projects, in Guatemala and Myanmar, were partially funded and will commence when fully funded.

Election time: A delegate casts a vote in the election of a new executive director.



At its 51st session, the Council, among other things:

- Considered the ex-post evaluation of projects related to community participation in sustainable forest management, forest fire, forest governance and the management of non-wood forest products.
- Reviewed progress on the implementation of 55 projects and three pre-projects.
- Declared 11 projects and one pre-project completed.
- Awarded 18 new ITTO Fellowships.
- Reviewed the implementation of the ITTO–CITES Programme.
- Reviewed progress on the implementation of the 2015–2016 Biennial Work Programme.
- Reviewed the implementation of the ITTO thematic programmes.
- Reviewed forest-related developments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- Reviewed the implementation of the Joint ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity.
- Considered the development of guidelines to incorporate gender equity in the Organization's activities, programmes and projects.
- Considered a report on regional ITTO presence and representation.
- Hosted the ITTO Annual Market Discussion, with the theme "raising the profile of tropical timber in the market place".
- Amended the process by which observers will be admitted to sessions in the future.
- Renewed the mandate of the Informal Advisory Group.
- Considered the appointment of a new executive director for the Organization. After a week of intense negotiations, however, no selection was made, and the Council decided to restart the selection process and to re-announce the vacancy in 2016.
- Commissioned an immediate investigation into ITTO's investments and financial management following the write-off of US\$6 million by the Organization, the result of an investment made possibly in contravention of ITTO's Financial Rules and of provisions laid down by the Committee on Finance and Administration. Additional investments of about US\$12 million may also have contravened these rules and provisions. A committee was formed to oversee the investigation.

The Council received reports of ex-post evaluations carried out in 2015, which showed, among other things, that ITTO projects have been influential in:

- Involving local communities in SFM in forests in the Colombian Amazon and Panama by building capacity among 500 families involved in the harvesting of timber and non-timber forest products, formulating a total of 32 forest management plans and establishing five community enterprises. In addition, two projects in Panama brought more than 48 000 hectares under SFM.
- Strengthening forest law enforcement and governance in Cambodia by training 545 forestry officials and enabling the prosecution of more than 1000 environmental crimes.
- Restoring forests after fire in Ghana in collaboration with local communities, with community fire volunteers demonstrating a strong commitment to continuing the work beyond project completion.
- Enabling the sustainable management of 3385 hectares of forest in Indonesia by helping achieve policy changes on the sustainable use of non-wood forest products and assisting communities to boost their livelihoods through the sustainable use of, for example, wild honey, candlenut, sugar palm, bamboo and medicinal plants.



Plenary: The 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council.

Donors at the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council were the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Korea. The CBD also provided funding through its Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative.

The following side-events featured at the session:

- “Land conversion and tree plantations in the permanent forest estate”, hosted by the Civil Society Advisory Group.
- “Independent Market Monitoring mechanism for legal timber”, hosted by the European Union.



Local livelihoods improved: A project officer inspects wooden beehives used to demonstrate beekeeping at a “community non-wood forest product livelihood and business learning hub” in Sukadana village, West Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia.

F. Soriano



SFM in el Darien, Panama: Forest communities have built capacity to manage their forest sustainably, thanks to ITTO project PD 482/07 Rev.2 (F). Photo: C.M. Carneiro



Tropical forest in Mexico.
Photo: G. Sánchez Vigil,
gerardosanchezvigil@gmail.com

2 Field results of projects completed in 2015

This chapter presents the results of completed projects under ITTO's regular project programme in 2015. Details of these projects are summarized in Table 1.

Restoring forests in Minas Gerais, Brazil

Native species were used to restore 870 hectares of degraded land in the Rio Doce region of Minas Gerais, Brazil, under ITTO project PD 62/99 Rev.3 (F). A total of 87 species were used in the restoration, such as *Acacia polyphylla*, *Bixa orellana*, *Cedrela odorata*, *Inga vera* and *Tabebuia heptaphylla*.

Seventeen municipalities participated in the project. Three hundred people were trained in seedling production, and seven nurseries were established and managed by local communities, who produced 600 000 plants for forest restoration in the project areas.

One of the main impacts of the project was to change the behaviour of landholders, away from practices causing degradation towards soil conservation practices associated with the protection of springs. Project beneficiaries participated actively, and the state government of Minas Gerais adopted policies to promote the state-wide recovery of degraded areas and a payment scheme for environmental services.

Improving practices for cedar and mahogany plantations in Mexico

An estimated 50 000 hectares of cedar (*Cedrela odorata*) and bigleaf mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla*) plantations were established in Mexico between 1997 and 2005, but their success is threatened by the shoot-borer *Hypsipyla grandella*. In its larval stage, *H. grandella* bores into the soft tissues of tender shoots, affecting the growth of the plant and causing branching and stem deformation, thus reducing the yield and quality of commercial timber.

ITTO project PD 350/05 Rev.3 (F) developed integrated pest management systems and silvicultural practices aimed at reducing and controlling the damage caused by *H. grandella*. Among other things, the project evaluated the use of chemical, biological and organic products, the pruning of affected trees, and the use of genotypes with apparent tolerance to attack by the pest. The project also monitored and modelled weather conditions (e.g. temperature, relative humidity and rainfall) that may lead to pest outbreaks.

The project established an experimental plantation to investigate the integrated management of *H. grandella* and another shoot borer, *Chrysobothris yucatanensis*.



Completed projects, 2015

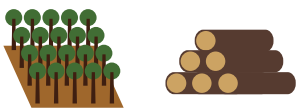
Brazil	Colombia	Côte d'Ivoire	Ghana	Guatemala	Indonesia	Mexico	Peru	Togo

Integrated fire management in rural communities
PD 590/10 Rev.1(F)



Guatemala

Integrated pest management for the establishment of Meliaceae plantations
PD 350/05 Rev.3(F)



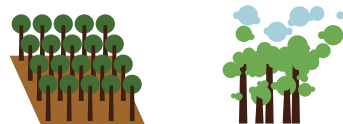
Mexico

Marketing native plants and timber products to improve living standards and strengthen forest policies in the Amazon
PD 622/11 Rev.1(F)



Peru

Pilot project for the recovery of degraded areas in Rio Doce, Minas Gerais
PD 62/99 Rev.3(F)



Brazil

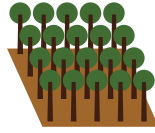
Key benefits



Timber markets
Trade and industry



Community forestry
Indigenous rights
Empowering women



Forest management & protection
Law enforcement



Climate change
Carbon sequestration
Environmental services



Fire prevention
Fire management

Forest fire prevention through regional actions, with the participation of local communities

PPD 153/11 Rev.1(F)

Socioeconomic development of the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve

PD 438/06 Rev.2(F)



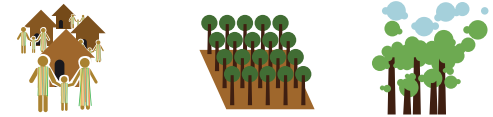
Colombia

Tropical forest conservation for reducing carbon emissions in the Meru Betiri National Park

PD 519/08 Rev.1(F)

Strategies for the conservation of Tengkwang genetic diversity and sustainable livelihoods of indigenous people

PD 586/10 Rev.1(F)



Indonesia

Small-scale private mixed plantations development involving six rural community women's groups

PD 534/08 Rev.1(F)



Ghana

Improving planting stock

PD 377/05 Rev.3(F)

PD 419/06 Rev.3(F)



Côte d'Ivoire

Effective participatory and sustainable management of the Eto-Lilicope Forest Complex

PD 584/10 Rev.2(F)



Togo

Several silvicultural trials were established to test the resilience of *Cedrela odorata* seedlings to these two pests under various conditions. Treatments involved:

- differences in responses of *Cedrela odorata*, by progeny;
- biological control using fungi (*Beauveria bassiana* and *Metarhizium fungii*); and
- treatments with organic (killNeem) and chemical (Novaluron, Cipervel, Piretroide) insecticides.

The project identified 46 *Cedrela odorata* individuals with resistant genotypes, and two clone banks were established in Veracruz and Yucatan. Four thousand certified seedlings were planted at an experimental site to validate the resistance of the genotypes to borer attack.

The project produced 32 documents, comprising scientific papers, technical reports, studies, training materials and others. The three main publications were *Integrated Management of Shoot Borers in the Terminal Buds of Meliaceae*; *Manual for the Clonal Propagation of Cedar and Mahogany through Grafts*; and *The Climate as an Element of Prediction in the Presence of Meliaceae Shoot Borers in Forest Plantations*. Overall, the project contributed to the establishment of healthy cedar and bigleaf mahogany plantations using effective integrated pest management.



J. Leigh/ITTO

Healthy plantations: Cedar plantations in Mexico.

Improving planting stock in Côte d'Ivoire



A. Kouame/Société de Développement des Forêts de Côte d'Ivoire

Improved seedlings: An obéché/samba nursery in the Téné forest, Côte d'Ivoire.

ITTO projects PD 377/05 Rev.3 (F) and PD 419/06 Rev.3 (F) assisted in establishing a programme in Côte d'Ivoire for cloning and producing seedlings of important timber species with the aim of providing a regular supply of improved planting stock for reforestation. The projects also helped build capacity for seed conservation and storage at the National Laboratory for Seedlings Research and Development, and they fostered partnerships between farmer cooperatives and timber industries. The species involved in the programme were: obéché/samba (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*); West African mahogany (*Khaya spp.*); tiokoué (*Garcinia afzelii*); teak (*Tectona grandis*); cedar (*Cedrela odorata*); niangon (*Heriteria utilis*); terminalia (*Terminalia spp.*); afromosia (*Pericopsis elata*); bete (*Mansonia altissima*); and gmelina (*Gmelina arborea*).

The project identified 52 superior trees of obéché/samba. Four hectares of clonal trials were established and nearly 270 000 high-quality seeds were produced. Under the project, 100 hectares of obéché/samba and teak were planted in the Téné and Sangoué gazetted forests.

The project produced 43 270 borer-resistant seedlings of West African mahogany, and 100 hectares of this species mixed with teak were planted in the Téné and Sangoué forests. About 46 000 improved tiokoué seedlings were planted in a 10-hectare area, in collaboration with local communities.

For the other species, two seed orchards were established in the Téné and Sangoué gazetted forests, and 597 hectares of seed production plots were established and are under management.

Seed-storage facilities—including a cold chamber—were built in Abidjan, Sangoué and Adzopé. A seed laboratory was built at Adzopé and is now operational.

Thanks to the two projects, the Société de Développement des Forêts de Côte d'Ivoire—the institution in charge of reforestation in Côte d'Ivoire—has become self-sufficient in seedling production, and it is now cooperating with the Forest Cooperative of Kimoukro for the establishment and maintenance of additional nurseries.

Socioeconomic development in the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve, Colombia

The aim of ITTO project PD 438/06 Rev.2 (F) was to build a vision based on a participatory consultation process with all stakeholders—forest owners, native communities, loggers, cooperatives, local non-governmental organizations, universities and local governments—for the sustainable management, use and protection of the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve in the department of Antioquia, Colombia.

The project created a blog² to foster communication among stakeholders on tenure rights and built local capacity by providing training in SFM. The project also assisted in the regeneration of degraded land and introduced agroforestry involving the production of rubber, cacao, *Acacia mangium* and honey products, providing 86 families with ongoing income.

² www.derechoalatierraelbagre.blogspot.com.



Corporación Autónoma Regional del Centro de Antioquia

Creating livelihoods: Local beekeepers inspect their hives in the Magdalena Medio Forest Reserve.

Establishing REDD+ in the Meru Betiri National Park, Indonesia

The Meru Betiri National Park covers about 58 000 hectares of lowland forests, coastal forests, swamps and mangroves in the southern part of East Java. Its rich biodiversity is threatened, however, by illegal logging and poaching and by ineffective management. ITTO project PD 519/08 Rev.1 (F) aimed to reduce such threats by improving the livelihoods of communities living in or near the park, as well as by establishing a REDD+ mechanism to generate local benefits from the carbon stored in the park's forests.

The project created new sources of income for local communities, including through the rehabilitation of degraded areas, with the participation of local women, and the cultivation of mushrooms (by Curahnongk village). The project provided training for local people on the protection of wild flora and fauna with a view to reducing the risk of illegal logging and poaching.

To assist in establishing a REDD+ mechanism, the project:

- Analyzed remote sensing imagery for land-cover mapping in the Meru Betiri National Park.
- Measured carbon stocks in 40 permanent plots, revealing that the primary forests hold an average of 135 tonnes of carbon per hectare and secondary forests an average of 167 tonnes per hectare (the permanent plots continue to be used for monitoring and reporting on carbon stocks).



Forestry Research and Development Agency (Indonesia)

Measuring REDD+: Local people receive training in measuring tree diameters to estimate carbon stocks in the Meru Betiri National Park, East Java, Indonesia.

- Prepared a project document for avoiding unplanned deforestation using the Verified Carbon Standard's VM-0015 methodology.

The project was supported by a private-sector company, 7&I Holdings Co. Ltd of Japan.

Empowering women to transform degraded lands into livelihoods in Ghana

ITTO project PD 534/08 Rev.1 (F) empowered six rural women's groups to transform degraded land into mixed plantations of commercial indigenous species, helping them increase their incomes and serving as an eye-opener for policymakers in Ghana about the potential of rural reforestation.

The land was legally allocated to women's groups by their respective clan heads in the communities of Adansi, Asankare, Enyiresi and New Jejeti in the Ashanti and Eastern regions of Ghana.

Between them, the women's groups established 63 hectares of mixed plantations of wawa (*Triplochiton scleroxylon*) and ofram (*Terminalia superba*); and 67 hectares of mixed plantations of teak (*Tectona grandis*) and moringa (*Moringa oleifera*). In addition, 180 women were trained in the processing of moringa products to manufacture foods and soaps—the sale of which is now generating income for the women's groups and contributing to poverty alleviation in their respective communities.



Pitris Consult

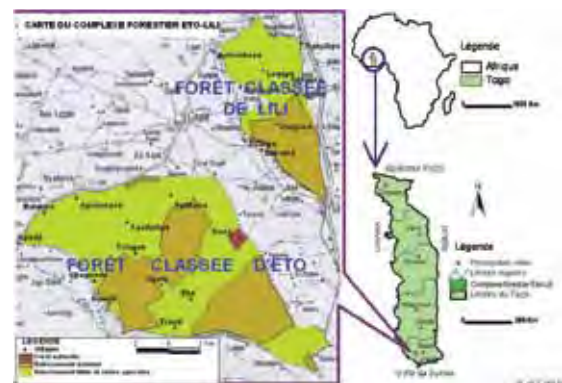
Empowered women: Moringa products manufactured by women's groups in Ghana are displayed for sale.

Demarcating land in Togo's Eto-Lili Forest Complex

ITTO project PD 584/10 Rev.2 (F) built on the results of an earlier project financed by ITTO (PD 217/03 Rev.2 (F)) with the aim of demarcating the external boundaries of the Eto-Lili Forest Complex in Togo and assisting in the allocation of land within local communities for its sustainable management.

Togo's Office for the Development and Exploitation of Forests, communities living around the Eto-Lili Forest Complex, and two specialized non-governmental organizations cooperated to map the Forest Complex and create a land-use plan, thereby diminishing the risk of future conflicts around the gazetted forests. Clear signs were posted to indicate both the external boundaries of the Forest Complex and its internal land-use areas. Forest brigades were formed and trained in forest fire surveillance and the control of illegal logging and poaching.

A management committee is in place for the Eto-Lili Forest Complex, with bylaws approved by all stakeholders. Other significant project interventions included the rehabilitation of degraded land and the establishment of agroforestry systems for cash crops, which are being sold both locally and in the cities of Atakpamé, Kpalimé and Lomé as a source of livelihood for local communities.



The map of the Eto-Lili Forest Complex created by the ITTO project



Togo Office for the Development and Exploitation of Forests

Making agreements clear: Participants sign the minutes of a meeting in December 2014 to define the boundaries of the Eto-Lili Forest Complex.

Improved livelihoods and conservation of tengkawang in Kalimantan, Indonesia

Certain species of *Shorea*, known collectively as “tengkawang”, produce the illipe nut and fat, which are sources of income for indigenous forest people in Indonesia. The loss of individual trees in the wild, however, has led to the decline of natural populations of tengkawang and its genetic diversity. Tengkawang species are protected under government regulations, but the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List categorizes several as critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable. Considering the value of the species and their conservation status, ITTO project PD 586/10 Rev.1 (F) aimed to halt their depletion by:

- Providing forest managers and government officers with training on species identification and law enforcement.
- Conducting field surveys to determine tengkawang distribution and populations. This baseline information was used to formulate a national strategy for genetic conservation.
- Establishing two *ex situ* conservation plots in East and West Kalimantan totalling 20 hectares and three permanent *in situ* conservation plots near three villages in West Kalimantan for ease of surveillance by local communities.

To improve the livelihoods of local communities, training was provided on the processing and trading of tengkawang seed products (e.g. dried and smoked seeds, fat extraction, teabags, crackers and handicrafts), and three village cooperatives were established.

The project provided the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry with updated information on the ecological status of the species, and eight research papers were published in collaboration with Mulawarman University in Samarinda.



Genetic conservation: Samples are collected for DNA analysis in an in situ conservation plot of tengkawang in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Changing fire management models in Guatemala

Wildfire patterns have been changing in Guatemala as a result of social, cultural, demographic and economic changes and inadequate government policies. In particular, fire has become too infrequent in fire-dependent ecosystems, and it has started to occur in fire-sensitive forest ecosystems where previously it was exceedingly rare. Such changes could increase the risk of high-intensity forest fires, with direct impacts on the livelihoods of rural people.

It is increasingly evident that, for effective forest fire management, there is a need to move beyond the traditional strategy of fire control, firefighting and fire extinguishment towards integrated approaches that take a more holistic view of the role of fire. ITTO project PD 590/10 Rev.1 (F) sought to introduce integrated fire management (IFM) approaches and to support local stakeholders involved in fire management at pilot sites in four regions with fire-dependent pine–cypress and pine forest ecosystems.

The project made interventions at two levels. At one level, the project provided training on IFM and practices such as prescribed and controlled burning to governmental and non-governmental institutions at the national scale and to the personnel of those institutions in the project regions. The aim of the training was to help mainstream IFM practices in the policies and work schedules of the institutions responsible for forest management in Guatemala and to promote the involvement of their technical staff in project activities. The second level of intervention focused on transferring capacities to rural communities in the four project regions by establishing IFM field schools. Community skills were strengthened on the following aspects:

- The role of local community organizations in the management of forest ecosystems.
- The ecological roles of fire in local forest ecosystems.
- The causal links between the dynamics of fire-affected forests and the deterioration of local livelihoods and reduced potential for socioeconomic development.
- The possible impacts of climate change on forest fire.
- Trends in the traditional use of fire by rural communities.
- Participatory and inclusive planning strategies for IFM in community/municipal forests.
- The implementation of sustainable fire management practices, such as firebreaks and prescribed and controlled burns to reduce fuel loads and promote the natural regeneration of forests and ecologically important plant species (i.e. through ecological succession).
- The monitoring and evaluation of local activities and the impacts of IFM.

The project achieved a change in fire regimes, which translated into an 80% reduction in the intensity and frequency of forest fires and the identification of areas for the implementation of controlled and prescribed burns. Ecological succession increased in the fire management demonstration plots, with a strong increase in the natural regeneration of both forest and non-forest species.

There was also an increase in the number of trained technical personnel and a change in mindset about forest fire based on the IFM approach. IFM has been mainstreamed in the policies of government institutions responsible for forest resources with a view to reducing the impact of forest fires and promoting IFM in Guatemala's tropical forest ecosystems.



Fire management training: Community members of the San Jeronimo National Farm, and government staff, are briefed on prescribed burning techniques during a training workshop on integrated fire management in Guatemala.

Better marketing of native species, improved livelihoods in Peru

ITTO project PD 622/11 Rev.1 (F) sought to improve the living standards of the Molinopampa rural community in the Peruvian Amazon through the production, diversification and marketing of native tropical timber species. The project assisted the Molinopampa community in establishing three nurseries, which produced 60 000 seedlings in a four-year period. The seeds were obtained from 150 individual trees distributed in 5500 hectares of forests. The seedlings grown in the nurseries were used to rehabilitate 40 hectares of forest and to establish 12 permanent seed production plots. The main timber species used were alislo (*Alnus acuminata*), cedar/dedro (*Cedrela odorata*), ishpingo (*Ocotea* spp.), chilca brava (*Gordonia fruticosa*) and San Pablo (*Solanum pseudosycophanta*).

A community enterprise called ACOBOSQUE was established for marketing purposes; comprising 35 families in the community, it actively trades seeds, seedlings and timber products. ACOBOSQUE's financial plan projects that the enterprise will earn four soles for each sol invested in the production of 30 000 seedlings (1 sol = US\$0.30).

The project produced four technical manuals and four scientific studies on the production, phenology, germination, growth and traditional uses of the selected native timber species, making up-to-date information available on their biology and reproduction.

The incomes of local communities have increased substantially as a result of the project. Jobs have been generated in the community for the collection, selection and marketing of seeds and seedlings, which are sold to local and regional markets to supply forest plantations and reforestation programmes.



Seed collection: A member of the Molinopampa community collects seeds from a cedar tree.

Table 1: Projects completed in 2015 (regular cycle)

Project ID	Title	Total budget (US\$)	Donors	Submitted by
PD 62/99 Rev.3(F)	Reforestation pilot project for the recovery of degraded areas in the Rio Doce region, state of Minas Gerais, Brazil	795 543	Japan USA	Brazil
PD 350/05 Rev.3(F)	Production systems and integrated management of shoot-borers for the successful establishment of Meliaceae plantations in the Yucatan Peninsula and Veracruz, Mexico	575 871	Japan Finland	Mexico
PD 377/05 Rev.3(F)	Development of cloning for samba (obéché), West African mahogany and tiokoué tree species	648 194	Japan	Côte d'Ivoire
PD 419/06 Rev.3(F)	Forest seed management and conservation	1 459 510	Japan	Côte d'Ivoire
PD 438/06 Rev.2(F)	Sustainable forest management for the forest production area of the northern and northeastern regions of the department of Antioquia, Colombia	1 172 473	Japan USA	Colombia
PD 519/08 Rev.1(F)	Tropical forest conservation for reducing emissions from deforestation and enhancing carbon stocks in Meru Betiri National Park, Indonesia	973 388	7&i Holdings Co Ltd (Japan)	Indonesia
PD 534/08 Rev.1(F)	Small-scale private mixed plantations development plus nutrition promotion: the case of six rural community women's groups in the Eastern and Ashanti regions of Ghana, Phase II	639 349	Japan USA	Ghana
PD 584/10 Rev.2(F)	Implementing the cooperative framework between the Office for the Development and Exploitation of Forests and stakeholders for the effective participatory and sustainable management of the Eto-Lilicope Forest Complex, Togo	218 298	Japan	Togo
PD 586/10 Rev.1(F)	Operational strategies for the conservation of tengkawang genetic diversity and the sustainable livelihoods of indigenous people in Kalimantan, Indonesia	513 356	Japan Republic of Korea USA	Indonesia
PD 590/10 Rev.1(F)	Integrated fire management in rural communities of Guatemala: establishment of pilot sites for the implementation of sustainable integrated fire management practices	799 332	Japan Republic of Korea	Guatemala
PD 622/11 Rev.1(F)	Marketing of native plant seeds, seedlings and timber products to improve living standards and strengthen regional forest policies in the Amazon region of Peru: a pilot case on the Taulia Molinopampa rural community	188 743	Japan USA	Peru
PPD 153/11 Rev.1(F)	Forest fire prevention through the implementation of regional actions with the participation of local communities and other relevant stakeholders so as to ensure the protection of forests and ecosystem services	123 326	Japan	Colombia



Forest home: ITTO project RED-SPD 055/11 Rev.3 (F) was implemented in the Mache-Chindul Ecological Reserve, Ecuador, with the aim of improving the livelihoods of local communities. Photo: Amy E. Rogers

3 Field results of ITTO thematic programmes in 2015

Implementation of ITTO's thematic programmes

ITTO's thematic programmes are an innovation of the ITTA 2006. Five have been established to date:

- 1) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET)
- 2) Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES)
- 3) Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME)
- 4) Trade and Market Transparency (TMT)
- 5) Industry Development and Efficiency (IDE).³

Table 2 summarizes the projects and activities concluded in 2015 under the ITTO thematic programmes.

³ The IDE thematic programme has received no funding since inception.

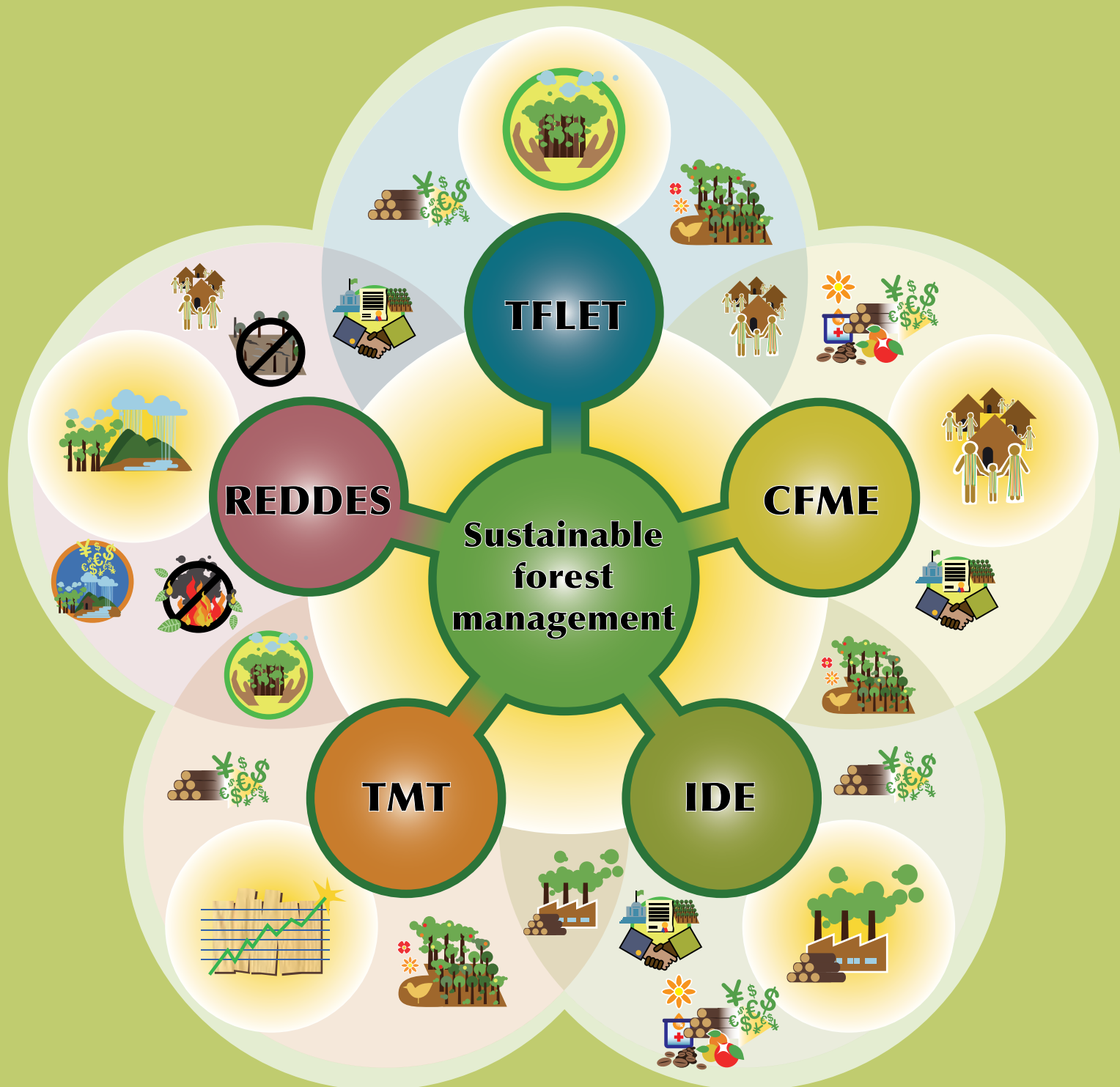
TFLET

The TFLET thematic programme has been influential in:

- Empowering civil society in Ghana to contribute to forest law enforcement by providing training on the legal timber supply chain, building grassroots capacity for combating illegal logging at the community level, establishing a national forest forum as an annual event to advocate for good governance, and creating links and networking among civil society, the private sector, government and the media to reach relevant stakeholders through national television.
- Increasing the technical capacity of seven indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon to improve their chain-of-custody (CoC) procedures for trading their Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified timber in fair-trade markets, which has doubled their incomes.
- Improving the business skills of another 20 communities in the province of Atalaya, Peru, in negotiating with third parties in a transparent, equitable and legal manner on the harvesting of their forests.
- Working with the Papua New Guinea (PNG) Forest Authority and industry on law enforcement by building capacity to detect and deter illegal logging, developing an industry code of conduct, and developing and piloting a timber-tracking CoC verification system and a database on the flow of timber and timber products.

Thematic programmes

The thematic programmes are targeted areas of work to assist ITTO in achieving its objectives through an integrated and strategic programmatic approach.



Focus areas



Forest law enforcement



Forest management



Forest communities



Reduce deforestation



Reduce wildfires



Forest governance & law enforcement



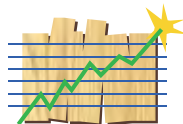
Forest industries



Payments for environmental services



Timber and non-timber forest products



Market intelligence



Forest markets

The advantages:



Quick start on projects



Focused projects & activities



Addresses global issues & policies

The programmes

TFLET



Safeguarding forest resources

Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (TFLET)

REDDES



Enhancing forest environmental services

Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES)

CFME



Improving livelihoods

Community Forest Management and Enterprises (CFME)

TMT



Improving forest markets & trade

Trade and Market Transparency (TMT)

IDE



Strengthening forest industries

Industry Development and Efficiency (IDE)

REDDES

The REDDES thematic programme has been influential in:

- Generating environmental and socioeconomic studies of the Bamboutos mountain range in Cameroon and raising awareness among stakeholders of the need for an integrated management plan.
- Increasing capabilities in China for assessing information and policymaking on ecotourism and payment schemes for environmental services in Hainan Province as a way of improving local livelihoods.
- Securing the protection and conservation of 300 hectares of primary forest in the Mono Bravo community in Ecuador in exchange for improvements in livelihoods (cacao farming) achieved by upgrading facilities for drying and fermenting cacao beans and creating a cooperative among 14 farmers.
- Establishing baseline data on mangroves on Bintan Island, Indonesia, including their carbon emissions and potential for carbon sequestration, and the socioeconomic status of communities living in the area of influence, leading to the establishment of a mangrove education centre and the formalization of the role of local communities in mangrove restoration. Such baseline data have provided key inputs in the development of a policy on mangroves in Indonesia.
- Building capacity in eight indigenous communities in Peru (seven in Ucayali and one in Madre de Dios) for preparing REDD+ project documents. The REDD+ projects have been validated by an accredited body under the Voluntary Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance. The communities are now able to sell carbon credits in the market, and they are better placed to implement SFM in their indigenous territories covering more than 153 000 hectares of tropical forest (142 000 hectares in Ucayali and 11 000 hectares in Madre de Dios).

Building capacity: Indigenous communities in Ucayali and Madre de Dios, Peru, are now aware of the environmental services provided by their forests and are ready to sell carbon credits.



AIDER/ITTO project RED-PD 018/09 Rev.1 (F)

CFME

The TMT thematic programme has assisted in:

- Generating baseline information on the socioeconomic dynamics of community forest enterprises in selected regions of PNG.



T. Bukon, PNG Forest Authority/ITTO project PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M,I)

Ready for tracking: A tropical timber log is tagged for timber tracking as part of training to improve the skills of community forest enterprises in PNG.

TMT

The TMT thematic programme has assisted in:

- Developing an integrated market information system for Guyana that provides reports and information on prices, market demand, export trends and market requirements for Guyana's forest products.⁴



More market transparency: Guyana now has in place a market information system to promote its products and provide information on the market requirements for legal timber. Photo: Guyana Forestry Commission/ITTO project TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M)

⁴ Available at: <http://fpdmcguy.org/marketingdb/buyer/list.aspx>.

Taking stock of the implementation of TFLET and REDDES

An independent assessment of the TFLET and REDDES thematic programmes was carried out in 2015, covering 49 projects. The assessment found out that:

- For TFLET, 80% of the values of its monitoring protocol were achieved. This means that: capacity building was provided in six countries to communities and small and medium-sized enterprises to demonstrate that their timber comes from legal sources; the volume of legal timber traded increased in nine countries; and forest law compliance and governance was strengthened through national policies and legal frameworks in 16 countries and enforcement improved through effective partnerships. On the other hand, less progress was made in developing public procurement policies and industry codes of conduct. The assessment noted that TFLET projects provided substantial support for the negotiation of voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) under the European Union (EU) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) initiative in 14 producing member countries.

- The assessment found that REDDES projects had contributed significantly to programme objectives (i.e. the reduction of unplanned deforestation, the reduction of forest degradation, climate-change mitigation, and the recognition of the contributions of environmental services to social and economic sustainability and the adaptation and resilience of tropical forests) through an increase in the area under SFM in 16 countries, the quantification of carbon stocks in 12 countries, income generation based on environmental services in ten countries, the development of payment schemes for environmental services in 11 countries, and capacity building on SFM and forest restoration in 15 countries. Areas that required further attention under the programme were the establishment of the permanent forest estate and the strengthening of tenure and user rights.

Looking up: *Members of the forest-dwelling community in Guayacan, Ecuador, have improved their livelihoods through a payment scheme for environmental services and agroforestry.*



Amy E. Rogers/ITTO project RED-SDP 055/11 Rev.1 (F)

Table 2: Thematic programme projects, pre-projects and activities completed in 2015

Project ID	Title	Total budget (US\$)	Submitted by
TFLET			
TFL-SPD 028/12 Rev.1 (M)	Empowering civil-society organizations and other non-state actors to contribute effectively to forest law compliance in Ghana	188 456	Ghana
TFL-SPD 029/12 Rev.1 (M)	Marketing timber from legal and sustainable sources by indigenous communities in Ucayali, Peru, for the fair-trade market	230 291	Peru
TFL-SPD 030/12 Rev.1 (M)	Improved governance and implementation of transparent negotiation mechanisms for indigenous community forestry in Atalaya, Ucayali, Peru	191 263	Peru
PD 449/07 Rev.2 (M,I)	Enhancing forest law enforcement in PNG	473 040	PNG
REDDES			
RED-PPD 050/11 Rev.1 (M)	Participatory development, conservation and rehabilitation of degraded forest areas in the Bamboutos mountain chain, west Cameroon	93 713	Cameroon
RED-SPD 075/12 Rev.1 (F)	Demonstration on investigation and assessment of tropical forest ecotourism resources in Hainan Province, China	199 000	China
RED-SPD 055/11 Rev.4 (F)	Integrating sustainable livelihoods, environmental mortgages, and science-based reforestation for tangible forest conservation change in the Ecuadorian Chocó	271 459	Ecuador
RED-PD 064/11 Rev.2 (F)	Promoting local community initiative on the rehabilitation of mangrove ecosystem with demonstration activities on Bintan Island to reduce further deforestation and forest degradation	555 887	Indonesia
RED-PD 018/09 Rev.1 (F)	Sustainable forest management and utilization of ecosystem services in forests managed by the Ese'Eja native community in Infierno, Peru	523 319	Peru
RED-PD 033/11 Rev.3 (F)	Value adding to environmental services from managed forests belonging to seven communities in the Ucayali region	654 965	Peru
CFME			
CFM-PPD 006/10 Rev.1 (F)	Enabling customary landowners to participate effectively in community forest management and REDD schemes in four pilot areas of PNG	156 040	PNG
TMT			
TMT-PD 006/11 Rev.3 (M)	Strengthening market information systems to enhance trade and market intelligence in the forest sector of Guyana	420 820	Guyana

Thematic programme cycles in 2015 and funding

Table 3 lists the five proposals approved for funding in 2015 under the fifth call of the TMT thematic programme. Table 4 shows the funds pledged and received for thematic programmes as of the end of 2015, and Table 5 shows the number of projects by thematic programme.

Table 3: Approved thematic programme proposals, 2015

Fifth cycle for the TMT thematic programme			
Project ID	Title	ITTO budget (US\$)	Submitted by
TMT-SPD 020/15 (M)	Support to the Agence Nationale d'Appui au Developpement Forestier for the optimal operation of the <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (assamela) management database in Cameroon	113 400	Cameroon
TMT-SPD 023/15 Rev.1 (M)	Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and importers of tropical timber for better understanding of CITES and the need to comply with CITES rules in China	150 000	China
TMT-SPD 021/15 (I)	Establishment of a monitoring centre for the industrial use of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in the Republic of the Congo	130 000	Congo
TMT-SPD 017/15 Rev. 2 (M)	Improving sustainable <i>Pericopsis elata</i> conservation and trade regulation in Ghana	149 997	Ghana
TMT-SPD 022/15 (M)	Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification system for all CITES-listed <i>Dalbergia</i> species and a feasibility study for <i>Diospyros</i> and look-alike species	200 000	Global

Funding was made possible by the TMT component of the ITTO–CITES Programme.

Table 4: Thematic programme funding pledged and received under the Strategic Action Plan 2013–2018, as of 31 December 2015

	TFLET	REDES	CFME	TMT	IDE	Total
	US\$					
Australia	1 942 098	-	-	-	-	1 942 098
European Union/CITES	-	-	-	490 632	-	490 632
Japan	200 000	-	-	-	-	200 000
Switzerland	-	300 000	-	-	-	300 000
USA	50 000	-	-	100 000	-	150 000
Total	2 192 098	300 000	-	590 632	-	3 082 730

Table 5: Number of projects by thematic programme, as of 31 December 2015 (including both precursor era and under the Strategic Action Plan 2013–2018)

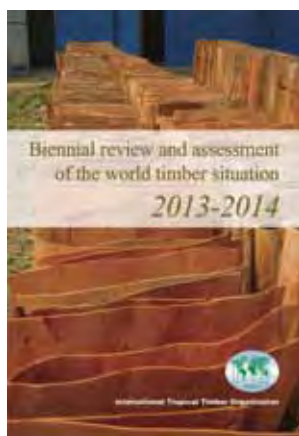
Country/region	TFLET	REDDes	CFME	TMT	Funded projects	Funding (US\$)
Cameroon	2	3		1	6	1 038 082
Congo				1	1	130 000
Democratic Republic of the Congo		1			1	476 820
Ghana	2	3	1	2	8	1 799 480
Liberia		1			1	149 922
Mali	1				1	149 707
Togo		2			2	628 798
Africa subtotal	5	10	1	4	20	4 372 809
Australia	1				1	518 833
China	1	2		1	4	766 896
Indonesia	4	3	1		8	3 489 425
Malaysia		1			1	590 922
Myanmar		1			1	571 890
PNG	1		1		2	269 320
Asia-Pacific subtotal	7	7	2	1	17	6 207 286
Brazil		2			2	1 266 894
Colombia	1				1	91 498
Ecuador		1			1	149 922
Guatemala	3	2		1	6	1 293 414
Guyana		1		2	3	858 240
Honduras/Guatemala		1			1	144 650
Mexico		1			1	470 682
Panama	1				1	412 556
Peru	2	2			4	1 041 080
Latin America subtotal	7	10		3	20	5 728 936
TFLET precursor	8				8	2 792 998
France				1	1	138 033
Germany	1				1	155 522
Global				1	1	200 000
ITTO Secretariat		3	1	3	7	1 053 926
Others subtotal	9	3	1	5	18	4 340 479
Grand total	28	30	4	13	75	20 649 510



Quality control exercise, Guatemala.
Photo: T. Yanuariadi/ITTO

4 Economics, statistics and markets

Review and assessment of world timber situation



Under the ITTA 2006, a “review and assessment of the world timber situation” is to be published biennially. In 2015, ITTO published the *Biennial Review and Assessment of the World Timber Situation 2013–2014*, providing data on the production and trade of primary wood products with

an emphasis on tropical primary wood products in 82 countries (summarized in Table 6).

The biennial review:

- Summarizes developments in major markets for tropical timber.
- Provides an analysis of the production, consumption, trade and prices of primary tropical timber products (tropical logs, sawnwood, veneer and plywood).
- Describes trade in secondary processed wood products, with a focus on tropical countries.
- Analyzes trends in the production and trade of tropical primary wood products.

Table 6: Major tropical timber production and trade volumes, ITTO member countries, 2012–2014

	2012	2013	2014*
	(million m ³)		
Logs			
Production	241.1	240.1	243.2
Imports	15.8	16.7	19.6
Exports	12.6	13.2	15.8
Sawnwood			
Production	52.1	52.1	52.5
Imports	8.1	8.6	8.8
Exports	9.1	9.7	9.8
Plywood			
Production	18.4	18.4	19.0
Imports	5.7	6.0	6.0
Exports	7.3	7.4	7.8

*Estimated.

The Biennial Review 2013–2014 and ITTO's online statistics database are available at www.itto.int/annual_review.

Europe's changing tropical timber trade



This baseline report published in 2015 was prepared in the inception phase of the IMM initiative to determine the state of EU markets for wood products before the issuance of import licences under the EU FLEGT programme. The IMM initiative was established under an ITTO project to support the implementation

of bilateral VPAs between the EU and participating timber-supplying countries.

The report covers all products within the scope of existing or potential future VPAs, including primary wood products, wooden doors, floors and furniture, and pulp and paper. It focuses on the trade between the 28 EU member states and 17 tropical timber-supplying countries at various stages of the VPA process.

Recognizing that market trends in the EU and VPA partner countries are highly dependent on trade with other regions of the world, the report also puts trade flows between the EU and VPA partner countries in their global context. The report has been published as part of ITTO's Technical Series and is available at www.itto.int/technical_report.

Monitoring forest and timber certification

The Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets reviewed progress in forest and timber certification (to 2014) at its annual session in 2015. It noted that the total area of certified forests in ITTO producer member countries was 25.6 million hectares in 2014, which was 5.7% of the global area of certified forests (451 million hectares). A total of 2806 CoC certificates were current in ITTO producer member countries, which was 7.2% of the total number of CoC certificates worldwide.

Forest certification in ITTO producer member countries mainly involves two international certification systems: those of the FSC and the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC).

FSC

- The area of FSC-certified forests in ITTO producer countries was 16 million hectares in 2014, which was 8.8% of the total area of FSC-certified forest worldwide.

- There were 2339 FSC CoC certificates in ITTO producer countries in 2014, which was 8.3% of the global total.
- The ITTO producer countries with the largest areas of FSC-certified forest in 2014 were:
 - Brazil—6.5 million hectares (1038 FSC CoC certificates)
 - Gabon—2.1 million hectares
 - Indonesia—2 million hectares.

PEFC

- The total area of PEFC-certified forest in ITTO producer countries was 7.7 million hectares in 2014, which was 2.7% of the total area of PEFC-certified forest worldwide.
- There were 461 PEFC CoC certificates in ITTO producer countries in 2014, 4.3% of the total worldwide, with Malaysia holding almost three-quarters (338) of these.
- The ITTO producer countries with the largest areas of PEFC-certified forest in 2014 were:
 - Malaysia—4.7 million hectares
 - Brazil—2.5 million hectares
 - Indonesia—0.6 million hectares.

In addition to the FSC and the PEFC, three ITTO producer countries have their own certification systems:

- 1) Brazilian Forest Certification Programme
- 2) Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation
- 3) Malaysian Timber Certification Council.

The PEFC has endorsed all of these systems, and their statistics are included in those of the PEFC.

In 2014, two-thirds of the world's certified forests was certified by the PEFC and almost one-third was certified by the FSC, but the FSC accounted for the bigger share of certified forests in ITTO producer member countries.



Pretty look and certified: This display shows tropical timber houses built with FSC-certified wood in the Congo.

Addressing illegal logging and associated trade

ITTO co-organized the International Symposium to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan, on 12 June 2015, in cooperation with the Committee for Wood Utilization Caravan to Bridge Forest and City of Japan. The aim of the symposium, which was sponsored by the Japan Forestry Agency, was to explore opportunities and challenges to further reducing illegal logging and promoting the trade in legally harvested timber products, particularly:

- Actions taken at the international level to reduce illegal logging and trade.
- The outlook of major timber-importing countries on legality assurance.
- Actions taken by timber-exporting countries to meet legality assurance requirements.

ITTO presented initiatives in its project portfolio, such as the use of DNA fingerprinting to aid traders and governments in meeting legality requirements, the development of legal procurement procedures and policies for timber, and information-sharing platforms in Ecuador and Guatemala to promote communication on policy and market developments.

Cooperation between ITTO and CITES

The ITTO–CITES Programme for Implementing CITES Listings of Tropical Tree Species, which began in 2006, aims to ensure that international trade in tropical tree species listed in the CITES appendices is consistent with the sustainable management and conservation of those species. The objectives of the Programme are to: assist CITES national authorities and the private sector in meeting the requirements for managing and regulating trade in CITES-listed tree species; provide capacity-building support; and conduct specific studies where information is lacking to enhance the global framework for collecting and analyzing information on the biology and management of CITES-listed tree species and trade in products derived from them.

The main species covered by the Programme to date are *Pericopsis elata* (afroformosa, assamela), *Prunus africana* (African cherry, pygeum) and *Diospyros* species (ebony) in Central Africa and Madagascar; *Swietenia macrophylla* (big-leaf mahogany), *Cedrela odorata* and other *Cedrela* species (cedro, cedar) in Latin America; *Gonystylus* species (ramin) and *Aquilaria* and *Gyrinops* species (agarwood) in Asia; and *Dalbergia* species (rosewood) in both Africa and Latin America.



Learning about legal timber: A symposium participant reads a special edition of the Tropical Forest Update on timber legality. Photo: H. Maki

The ITTO–CITES Programme continued its collaborative capacity-building activities in 2015. As of end December 2015, more than 70 activities had been undertaken under the ITTO–CITES Programme. Many of these have been reported as completed in previous annual

reports; Table 7 lists activities that were completed in 2015, and Table 8 shows those activities that were ongoing at the end of 2015. Further details on the Programme and its activities are available at www.itto.int/cites_programme.

Table 7: Activities completed under the ITTO–CITES Programme in 2015

Country	Title	Agency
Brazil	Big-leaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) in the Brazilian Amazon: long-term studies of population dynamics and regeneration ecology towards sustainable forest management	Instituto Floresta Tropical
Cameroon	Establishment of a monitoring system for logging and processing assamela, and training control agents on the use of CITES tools and procedures in Cameroon	Agence Nationale d'Appui au Developpement Forestier
Indonesia	The assessment of ramin plantation requirements and the establishment of ramin genetic resource conservation gardens	Forestry Research and Development Agency
	Promoting conservation of plant genetic resources of <i>Aquilaria</i> and <i>Gyrinops</i> species in Indonesia	
	Managing agarwood plantations in Indonesia	Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation
	Capacity building on seedling propagation techniques and awareness-raising on CITES implementation and ramin roadmap	
Malaysia	Use of DNA for the identification of <i>Gonystylus</i> species and timber geographical origin in Sarawak	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
	In vitro propagation of <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> (ramin) in Sarawak	Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Forest Department Sarawak
	Reproductive and genetic studies towards the conservation and management of <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> in Peninsular Malaysia	Forest Research Institute Malaysia
	Development of an information database for the conservation and sustainable use of <i>Gonystylus bancanus</i> (ramin) and <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i> (karas) in Malaysia	
Peru	Confirmatory assessment of forest inventories for cedar and big-leaf mahogany	Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina



S. Hirakuri

Growing up: A sapling of *Cedrela odorata* in Madre de Dios, Peru, is assessed as part of a project conducted under the ITTO–CITES Programme.



Assam Agarwood Association

Source of livelihoods: Agarwood chips are processed by hand in a community enterprise in Assam, India.

Table 8: Activities ongoing under the ITTO–CITES Programme as of 31 December 2015

Country	Title	Agency
Africa		
Cameroon	Law enforcement and management of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in production forests in Cameroon	Agence Nationale d'Appui au Developpement Forestier
	Sustainable management of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> towards the implementation of the simple management plan of the Bidou II plantation in the Kienke South Forest Reserve, Cameroon	
	Support the Agence Nationale d'Appui au Developpement Forestier for optimum operation of the database management of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> (assamela) in Cameroon*	
Cameroon, the Congo	Pilot implementation of a DNA traceability system for <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in forest concessions and sawmills in Cameroon and the Congo	Double Helix/ Agence Nationale d'Appui au Developpement Forestier/Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques/Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo	Pilot implementation of a DNA traceability system for <i>Prunus africana</i> in "Prunus allocation units" in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Centre National d'Inventaire et d'Aménagement des Ressources Forestières et Fauniques
Congo	Promotion of the silviculture of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in north Congo	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
	Establishment of an observatory of the exploitation of <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in Congo*	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Non-detriment findings for <i>Prunus africana</i> (Hook.f.) Kalman in North and South Kivu, the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Direction de la Conservation de la Nature
	Development of non-detriment findings for <i>Pericopsis elata</i> in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature
Ghana	Improving intra-African trade and market transparency in timber and timber products*	Ghana Timber Millers Organization
	Improving sustainable <i>Pericopsis elata</i> conservation and trade regulation in Ghana*	Nature and Development Foundation
Asia		
China	Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises and importers of tropical timber for better understanding of CITES and the need to comply with CITES rules in China*	Research Institute of Forestry Policy and Information of the Chinese Academy of Forestry
Indonesia	Development of a ramin conservation concept (<i>Gonystylus</i> spp.) for plantation forest concessions	Association of Indonesian Forest Concessions
	Ensuring genetic diversity of ramin seed sources and ramin population from rooted cuttings	Forestry Research and Development Agency
	Establishment of an integrated agarwood cluster in Bintan Island, Indonesia	
Malaysia	Capacity building of Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia's staff in identifying <i>Aquilaria</i> to species level and in the grading of agarwood	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia

*Activities funded through the TMT thematic programme under an agreement with the main donor (the EU through the European Commission) because objectives are relevant to both the TMT and the ITTO–CITES Programme.

Table 8: Activities ongoing under the ITTO–CITES Programme as of 31 December 2015 (continued)

Country	Title	Agency
Latin America		
Brazil	Big-leaf mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i>) in the Brazilian Amazon: long-term studies of population dynamics and regeneration ecology towards sustainable forest management (second extension)	Instituto Floresta Tropical, Yale University and James Grogan, with support from the Brazilian Forest Service
	Ecology and silviculture of mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> King) in the western Brazilian Amazon	Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa, Extensão e Ensino em Ciências Agrárias and the Federal Rural University of the Amazon
	Using the near infrared spectroscopy technique on a pilot scale as a potential tool for the monitoring of mahogany trade	Foundation for Forest Technology and Geoprocessing, Brazilian Forest Service
Guatemala	Establishment of a forensic laboratory for timber identification and description in the implementation of legal proceedings and traceability systems for CITES-listed products	Fundación Naturaleza para la Vida
	Population and abundance survey for <i>Dalbergia retusa</i> and <i>D. stevensonii</i> species in their natural range areas in Guatemala	
	Non-detriment findings—practical guidance for CITES-listed tree species	Universidad de Córdoba (Spain), Consejo Nacional de Áreas Protegidas (Guatemala)
Guyana	Enhancing the sustainable management and commercial utilization of the CITES-listed species <i>Cedrela odorata</i> (red cedar) in Guyana*	Guyana Forestry Commission
Peru	Management of mahogany (<i>Swietenia macrophylla</i> King.) and cedar (<i>Cedrela</i> spp.) seed stands in a forest concession for the conservation of the Tahuamanu Seed Stand in the province of Tahuamanu, Madre de Dios, Peru	Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina
Regional and global		
France	Preparation of <i>Atlas of Tropical Timber Species</i> : first edition—technological characteristics and uses of 273 tropical timber species (and 17 temperate species)*	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement (CIRAD)
Global	Establishment of a fully documented reference sample collection and identification system for all CITES-listed <i>Dalbergia</i> species and a feasibility study for <i>Diospyros</i> and look-alike species*	Institute of Integrative Biology, Switzerland

*Activities funded through the TMT thematic programme under an agreement with the main donor (the EU through the European Commission) because objectives are relevant to both the TMT and the ITTO–CITES Programme.



Bark mat: *Prunus africana* bark chips are spread out for drying in Cameroon.



Ready for out-planting: Ramin seedlings grow in the Permanent Nursery Complex in Palembang, Indonesia.

Annual Market Discussion: raising the profile of tropical timber in the market place

The 2015 Annual Market Discussion, organized by TAG and chaired by Manoel Sobral Filho (Director, UNFF), was held at the 51st session of the International Tropical Timber Council on the theme of “raising the profile of tropical timber in the market place”. This theme was chosen because the tropical timber sector has demonstrated that it can verify the legal credentials of its products and now needed to get the message out to professionals, architects, engineers and designers who specify and use wood.

Presentations were made by speakers from the International Wood Products Association (USA), the China National Forest Product Industry Association, Certified Timbers and Credible Suppliers (Malaysia), the Myanmar Forest Products Merchants Federation, the European Timber Trade Federation, TAG and independent consultants.⁵

- **Cindy Squires**, Executive Director of the International Wood Products Association, USA, reported on “trends affecting acceptance and demand for tropical timber in North America”. She noted that growth in gross domestic product, the strong US dollar and an improvement in the housing market (especially in multifamily units) have boosted imports, although it will take several years to get back to pre-recession levels. Challenges faced by suppliers included market perceptions of imported products, new product regulations, Lacey Act enforcement, and a more educated industry that performs “due care” when sourcing wood products.



- **Wu Shengfu**, Vice President of the China National Forest Product Industry Association, presented on the “expansion of green consumerism in China—an opportunity to raise the profile of legal and sustainable tropical timber”. He noted that China has become the world’s biggest wood market and that internal consumption will lead economic growth. There are growth trends in the housing market and the construction and furniture industries in China, and the country’s green building initiative could have a positive impact on legal tropical timber and timber products. Mr Wu indicated that training is required for executives involved in the purchase, production and sale of timber and timber products on issues such as legality, due diligence and timber tracking.



- **Ahmad Shah**, Programme Director of Certified Timbers and Credible Suppliers, spoke about “adding value to timber”, noting that consumers face the dilemma of getting the right quality of timber as well as an assurance of the legality of the timber they buy. He observed that timber use could be increased through improved performance, correct specifications and proper installation. Mr Shah described the Certified Timbers and Credible Suppliers programme, which is promoting the use of certified timber in the building and construction industries and establishing a list of credible suppliers to assure quality and provide timber verification



⁵ Presentations are available at www.itto.int/news_releases/id=4587.

services. He highlighted some of the benefits of the programme, which include better understanding of customer needs, matching demand and supply, improved market access, and product traceability.

- **Barber Cho**, Advisor to the Myanmar Forest Products Merchants' Federation, gave a presentation titled "a new chapter opens for the Myanmar timber industry", in which he noted that teak is a symbol of Myanmar. Forest management employs the Myanmar selection system, and future forest management will focus on species-wise management, in particular for hardwoods. Mr Cho said that the new government is expected to pay more attention to environmental values, as reflected in preliminary negotiations between Myanmar and the EU for a VPA and the drafting of revised criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of natural and plantation forests with a view to developing a national certification scheme.



- **André de Boer**, Secretary General of the European Timber Trade Federation, presented a new web platform developed with financial support from ITTO that is an online, one-stop site for the tropical timber trade. The new site, called the "Timber Trade Portal"⁶, provides international timber traders and other users with information on the forest industry, legality requirements in timber-producing countries, and relevant contacts. The first countries profiled on the website are all significant tropical timber exporters—Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guyana and Indonesia.



⁶ Available at www.timbertradeportal.com.

Strengthening private-sector involvement in advancing ITTO's objectives

- **James Gasana**, an independent consultant, presented the results of a study commissioned by the TAG for greater private-sector participation in ITTO. Mr Gasana recommended the adoption by ITTO of clear policies and guidelines to engage the private sector so that resources (intellectual, physical and financial) may be blended for forest industry-related initiatives. "The lack of a strategy for a private-sector partnership is clearly in contrast with the expectations of both ITTO and the private sector for cooperation in achieving the priorities of successive ITTO Action Plans," said Mr Gasana. "There is therefore a strong case for improving the situation by building a better defined and more innovative partnership."

Statement of the Trade Advisory Group

- **Barney Chan**, TAG Coordinator, said the time was right for tropical timber traders to raise the profile of their products in the market place and to challenge the market share taken in recent years by competitors and alternatives. The tropical timber sector has demonstrated that it can verify the legal credentials of its products; now it needed to get that message out to those who specify and use wood. Mr Chan urged the International Tropical Timber Council to forge a stronger partnership with the private sector as a way of furthering its objectives.



Podium: Speakers at the 2015 Annual Market Discussion.

5 Forest industry

Environmental product declarations for timber products

In response to demand in international timber markets for environmentally responsible construction materials, ITTO produced environmental product declarations (EPDs) for ipê and cumarú decking in Brazil in 2015, complementing two similar studies completed in 2014 for meranti plywood in Indonesia and Malaysia and kaya lumber in Ghana. These EPDs,⁷ the first of their kind for tropical timber products, provide credible data on the environmental performance of those timbers and provide a fair basis for comparison between products performing similar functions.

New site on lesser-used timber species

In 2015, ITTO launched tropicaltimber.info, a website dedicated to expanding the use of lesser-used tropical timber species by facilitating access to existing technical information on species availability, wood properties, uses and processing into value-added wood products.

The site contains data on 984 tropical timber species from all the tropical regions. It also presents newly compiled market development profiles of 60 timber species from tropical America with the following features:

- Tree identification photos, silvicultural information, non-timber uses and local timber uses.

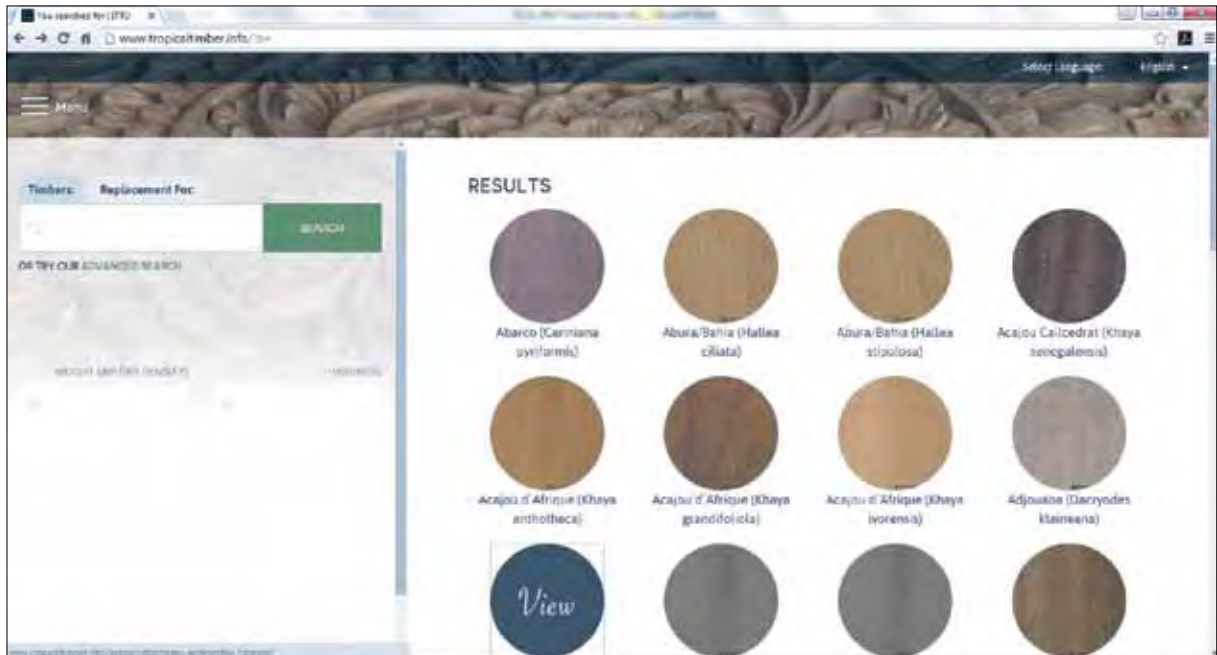
- Digital maps for species showing their geographic distribution in natural forests.
- A list of certified forest producers offering species shown on the map (with five initial participants).
- Applicable CITES restrictions and data on timber abundance, where available.

Tropicaltimber.info enables smart searches of tropical timber species by use, properties and substitution; timber availability and sourcing; tree and wood identification; species distribution and abundance; and replacement or substitution of well-known species.

Tropicaltimber.info also contains information and contacts for producers and consumers, including a virtual technical library and classic publications; a multilingual search facility for ITTO projects and links to ITTO statistics and publications; and consumer tips and education.

Tropicaltimber.info aims to leverage existing information gained in ITTO-funded projects to help fill knowledge gaps and meet the information needs of the tropical timber industry.

⁷ Available at www.itto.int/technical_report.



New site: www.tropicaltimber.info



Improved efficiency: Capacity building provided by ITTO project PD 540/09 Rev.2 (I) has helped small and medium-sized companies in the Peruvian Amazon increase efficiency and add value to harvested timber and thereby increase their revenues. Photo: E. Sangama/CNF

6 Reforestation and forest management

Joint ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity

The overall objective of the Joint ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity is to enhance biodiversity conservation in tropical forests with the direct participation of local stakeholders by addressing the main causes of biodiversity loss in tropical forests—deforestation and forest degradation. The initiative supports ITTO producer member countries in reducing biodiversity loss by implementing the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity, focusing on the objectives common to both the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and the ITTO Action Plan.

The initiative aims to achieve four key outputs:

- 1) Enhanced local capacity for biodiversity conservation in production forests and the rehabilitation of degraded and secondary forests.
- 2) Improved conservation and management of protected areas, especially in association with buffering protected areas, and transboundary conservation.
- 3) Safeguarding tropical forest biodiversity in forestry interventions, including in REDD+–related projects.
- 4) Improved welfare of local communities and indigenous groups through biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.



Biodiversity monitored: Flamingos wade in the Chulliyache mangroves in Peru, where biodiversity is being monitored under ITTO project PD 601/11 Rev.3 (F).

These outputs are to be achieved through the promotion of SFM, with particular emphasis on biodiversity protection; forest monitoring and adaptive management to generate multiple benefits on a sustainable basis; protection against invasive species; and enhancing the value of natural tropical forests to avoid land-use change. ITTO leads the implementation of the initiative in close consultation with the CBD Secretariat, donors, other partners and especially beneficiary countries. Eleven projects have been funded to date (see box), with donors of the total budget of US\$12.5 million mainly comprising the governments of Belgium, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the USA.

Projects funded as part of the Joint ITTO–CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity

- Capacity building for the sustainable management of tropical rainforests and biodiversity conservation in the ITTO Congo Basin countries [PD 456/07 Rev.4 (F)]
- Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to promote cooperation on transboundary biodiversity conservation among Thailand, Cambodia and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Phase III [PD 577/10 Rev.1 (F)]
- Building the capacity of Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization member countries in ecologically responsible forest management and biodiversity conservation in managed forests of the Amazon [PP-A/47-266]
- Study on the rehabilitation and sustainable management of sacred forests at Ramsar sites 1017 and 1018 in Benin [PPD 165/12 Rev.1 (F)]
- Promoting biodiversity conservation in the Betung Kerihun National Park as the transboundary ecosystem between Indonesia and Sarawak, Malaysia, Phase III [PD 617/11 Rev.4 (F)]
- Buffer zone management for the Pulong Tau National Park with the involvement of local communities in management, Sarawak, Malaysia [PD 635/12 Rev.2 (F)]
- Integrated management of natural resources and biodiversity in the Tacaná volcano and its range of influence in Mexico and Guatemala [PD 668/12 Rev.1 (F)]
- Strengthening mangrove ecosystem conservation in the biosphere reserve of northwestern Peru [PD 601/11 Rev.3 (F)]
- Community-based restoration and sustainable management of vulnerable forests of the Rewa Delta, Viti Levu, Fiji [PD 696/13 Rev.2 (F)]
- Promoting the conservation of selected high-value indigenous species in Sumatra, Indonesia [PD 710/13 Rev.1 (F)]
- Building capacity for biodiversity conservation in transboundary conservation areas in the Congo Basin countries through sustainable forest management practices and the use of satellite and radar imagery [PP-A/50-296 Rev.1]

These projects are working in areas of high biodiversity in 26 countries and are contributing directly to the achievement of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and, in particular, the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 11, 14 and 15.

Training on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests

The first regional workshop on the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests* was held on 17–20 August 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia, the Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia. The aim of the workshop, which was attended by 24 participants from ITTO member countries in the Asia-Pacific region, was to stimulate the development and implementation of national and subnational guidelines on SFM in the region, drawing on the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines adopted by the International Tropical Timber Council in 2014.

Participants were trained on the seven principles established in the Voluntary Guidelines: 1) forest governance and security of tenure; 2) land-use planning, the permanent forest estate and forest management planning; 3) ecological resilience, forest health and climate-change adaptation; 4) multipurpose forest management; 5) silvicultural management; 6) social values, community involvement and forest-worker safety and health; and 7) investment in natural forest management and economic instruments.



Trained participants: Participants from Malaysia, Myanmar and Fiji in the first regional workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests plant trees during a field visit to a demonstration site in the Sungai Tekala Forest Reserve, Malaysia.

Contributing to the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and supporting regional fire networks

ITTO provided financial assistance for the participation of 14 members of the African, Asian and Latin American regional wildland fire networks in the Sixth International Wildland Fire Conference, held in the Republic of Korea in October 2015. Supported participants made presentations on the results of ITTO-financed projects on forest fire management. ITTO also hosted a side-event at the conference and produced a special issue of the *Tropical Forest Update* headed “Putting a brake on wildfire”, which described forest fire management efforts in the three tropical regions.

ITTO presented a paper at the conference’s final global session on an integrated fire management approach in the tropics.



C. Gómez/Asociación Vivamos Mejor

Putting a break on wildfire: A firefighter supervises a controlled burn in Guatemala as part of the country’s integrated fire management approach developed with support of ITTO-funded project PD 590/10 Rev.1 (F).

Promoting the sustainability of mangrove ecosystems

ITTO engaged the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems to assess the work undertaken by the Organization on mangroves and to recommend future strategies for the sustainability of these vital ecosystems. The study identified the *World Mangrove Atlas* (two editions of which have been published, in 1997 and 2010) as one of ITTO’s many significant contributions. The study recommended updating the ITTO Mangrove Work Plan 2002–2006, building capacity for the conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems, monitoring the status of protected and rehabilitated mangrove areas, and showcasing success stories.⁸

ITTO convened a side-event at the XIV World Forestry Congress in September 2015 on the theme “mangrove forests and their ecosystems—opportunities and challenges for their future”, in which the Organization shared its experiences and lessons learned on mangrove conservation, restoration and sustainable use.



Mecanismo de Desarrollo Alterno

Making it green: Project officers inspect mangrove reforestation in Peru that was supported by ITTO project PD 601/11 Rev.3 (F).

⁸ The study is available at www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=4532&no=0.

Assessing ITTO's forest restoration guidelines



ITTO commissioned three case studies from the World Resources Institute as part of its contribution to the Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR), in order to increase understanding of the factors to be taken into account in successful forest and landscape restoration and the

rehabilitation of degraded forests in the tropics. The ensuing report reviewed restoration activities at project sites in Ghana, Indonesia and Mexico and noted the following:

- **Ghana:** Practices built on traditional methods and experiences and using simple and inexpensive techniques and technologies aided the sustainability of restoration activities.
- **Indonesia:** The development of participatory contractual agreements on collaborative forest management and the strong commitment of local governments and communities to their implementation helped ensure the effective operation of restoration projects.
- **Mexico:** Given that demand for global commodities such as gold, bauxite, palm oil, rubber, sugar and beef is increasing, it is essential to consider how effective laws, institutions and governance can facilitate the development of economically more attractive integrated land management systems.

The study also recommended:

- identifying ITTO's comparative advantages within the GPFLR and using this to fill gaps in restoration methodologies and toolkits.
- Aligning the revision of the *ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests* with global emerging issues and priorities.
- Using the GPFLR to create visibility for the revised ITTO guidelines and to support the implementation of global landscape restoration initiatives.

ITTO released the report at a knowledge-sharing session held as part of the 2015 Global Landscapes Forum at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 6 December 2015.⁹

⁹ The report is available at www.itto.int/technical_report.

Assessing the ITTO SFM policy guidelines

ITTO commissioned Dr Tim Cadman at the Institute for Ethics, Governance and Law at Griffith University (Australia) to assess the use of ITTO policy guidelines on the sustainable management of plantations, secondary forests, biodiversity and natural forests in the tropics. The assessment found that stakeholders use the guidelines for ecological and silvicultural management, forest governance, forest policy and legal frameworks, monitoring of the forest resource and progress on SFM, and timber certification. The assessment recommended more instruction on ensuring the representation of stakeholders such as women, the private sector and indigenous peoples in SFM; climate change and forest governance; capacity building and training; and research to determine regional needs and priorities.

Criteria and indicators for sustainability in the Amazon

ITTO supported the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization in the harmonization of its criteria and indicators for sustainability with those of ITTO. Representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Peru and others participated in the process and completed a final draft.

Study on carbon and tropical wood products

This study was commissioned with the aim of quantifying carbon removals and emissions of plywood-based flooring produced in Indonesia and used in Japan and thereby demonstrating the advantages for ITTO producer members of producing longer-life tropical timber products. The study concluded that tropical timbers are generally strong and durable. If manufactured into high-quality products and used appropriately, they can have long life spans and maintain carbon stocks for long periods. The study also found that the quantification of carbon removals and emissions from the production and use of major high-quality tropical timber products, including the estimation of their life spans and retirement rates, would increase their competitiveness in markets and may enhance the efforts of ITTO producer members to contribute to climate-change mitigation, including through the development and improvement of intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs). Moreover, it could increase opportunities for cooperation with the ITTO consumer members in the framework of harvested wood products.

ITTO appreciated the cooperation of Sumitomo Forestry Co., Ltd, PT Kutai Timber Indonesia and Asahi Woodtec Corporation in providing valuable data and information on the production and use of plywood and plywood-based flooring for the study.¹⁰

¹⁰ The study is available at: www.itto.int/direct/topics/topics_pdf_download/topics_id=4816&no=0.



Forest restoration with *Acacia milleriana*, Mexico. Photo: D. Douterlunge

7 Fellowships



L.F. Muñoz

Field learning: ITTO fellow Mr Luis F. Muñoz (third from the right) participates in a field trip with classmates during a course on the diversified management of tropical natural forests at Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza, Costa Rica.

The ITTO Fellowship Programme promotes human resource development in member countries and strengthens professional expertise in tropical forestry and related disciplines. Since its establishment in 1989, the Programme has enabled more than 1300 young and mid-career professionals from more than 49 countries to pursue professional development opportunities and improve their career prospects. The total value of fellowship awards is about US\$7.9 million, of which Japan has contributed 73%, the USA 16%, the Netherlands 7% and Australia 3%, with the remainder obtained from various sources, including the private sector.

Two selection panels were convened in 2015, and a total of 46 fellowships were awarded to professionals in 20 member countries at a total value of US\$250 000. Figures 1–3 show how these fellowships were distributed by region, type and gender.

Figure 1: Fellowships awarded in 2015, by region

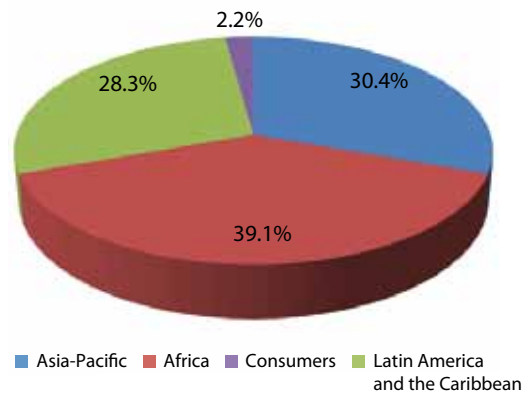


Figure 2: Proportion of fellowships awarded in 2015, by purpose

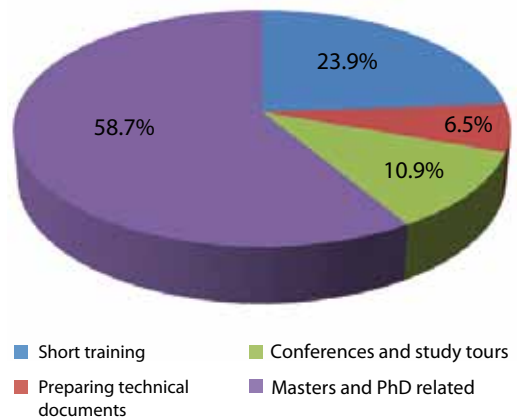
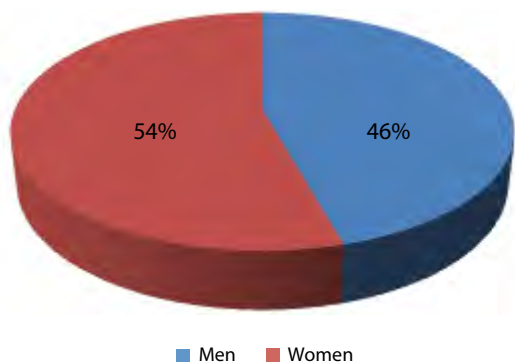


Figure 3: Fellowships awarded in 2015, by gender



D. Verma/ITTO Fellow

Non-timber forest products: A young man makes a winnower using bamboo harvested in local hill forests in Lohaghat, Uttarakhand, India.

Online application process

Fellowship applications can be submitted at: www.itto.int/itto_fellowship_login.

Fellowship brochure

A brochure on the ITTO Fellowship Programme is available at: www.itto.int/publicity_materials

Fellowship network

ITTO launched a social media network (www.ittofellownet.org) in June 2014 to facilitate interaction and knowledge-sharing among ITTO fellows and alumni on the sustainable management of tropical forests. As of December 2015, about 750 people had signed up to the network to share experiences, publications and information on courses, conferences and grants.



"The training in genetic resources was a great experience in both my personal and professional life. Having the experience of working in a multicultural team and applying participatory

approaches in an Indian tribal community was an experience that changed me. I learned that recognizing the needs and expectations of rural communities while respecting their traditional knowledge increase the chances of success in implementing strategic action plans. Back in Brazil, I am confident of working with our small farmers and scientists, focusing on increasing the interaction between in situ (on-farm) and ex situ conservation. I am also motivated to encourage healers to work with our native species, which have economic potential, and thus increase their conservation."

—Dulce Alvez da Silva (Brazil), 2015 ITTO fellow, who undertook the international course "Plant genetic resources and seeds: policies, conservation and use" at Wageningen University in the Netherlands.



"The ITTO fellowship was indeed a breakthrough in my career. It helped me look at the global scenario of forestry and interact with the international forestry fraternity, where I could present about the participation and role

of women in forest management and in the utilization of non-timber forest products."

Bhaswati Thakurta (India), 2015 ITTO fellow, who presented on "gender in forest, agroforestry and tree value chains" at the XIV World Forestry Congress, in Durban, South Africa, in September 2015.

Heron in flooded forest, Mexico.
Photo: G. Schez V.

8 International cooperation and collaboration



Assam Agarwood Association

Sharing a common interest: Participants at the agarwood workshop.

Open-ended Intergovernmental Ad Hoc Expert Group on the International Arrangement on Forests

New York, USA
12–16 January 2015

ITTO contributed to this international event by providing views on the way forward for collaboration in the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and for the future international arrangement on forests.

ITTO–CITES Asian Regional Workshop on Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa

Guwahati, Assam, India
19–23 January 2015

In cooperation with the agarwood range states and the CITES Plants Committee, this workshop was organized to share experiences, discuss the management of wild and plantation-sourced agarwood, and identify and agree on strategies to balance the conservation and use of wild populations of agarwood species while alleviating the pressure on those populations through the use of planted material.

Seventh Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Expert Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade

Clark, Philippines
26 January 2015

At this meeting, ITTO presented its field work on forest law enforcement, governance and combating illegal logging based on the TFLET thematic programme, the ITTO–CITES Programme, the IMM, relevant projects and statistical work. The meeting served as a platform for policy dialogue on fighting the illegal harvesting of timber and its associated trade.

28th Meeting of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics

Yokohama, Japan
29 January 2015

The Intersecretariat Working Group on Forest Sector Statistics convened its 28th meeting at ITTO headquarters. The Working Group brings together representatives of ITTO, FAO, the Forestry and Timber Section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, and Eurostat, and for more than 20 years it has fostered collaboration on the collection, analysis and dissemination of forest product statistics. At this meeting, the Working Group reviewed the Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire and the activities of partner organizations in 2014, and planned work for 2015.

International Seminar on REDD+ Finance and its Optimum Use

Tokyo, Japan
3–4 February 2015

This seminar was organized by Japan's Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute and the Japan International Forestry Promotion and Cooperation Center. ITTO participated as a moderator of several sessions.

Yokohama Kokusai Forum 2015

Yokohama, Japan
7 February 2015

ITTO participated in this event organized by the City of Yokohama with the aim of informing Japanese citizens about the work carried out by international organizations based in Yokohama. ITTO explained the meaning and practical implications of SFM and how it is implemented in the field.

Legal Acquisition of CITES Timber: Lessons from the Congo Basin

London, UK
26–27 February 2015

ITTO contributed to this workshop organized by Chatham House, presenting a case study on afrormosia (*Pericopsis elata*) in Cameroon, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, based on activities implemented as part of the ITTO–CITES Programme and its links with the EU FLEGT programme.

Major Groups Partnership on Forests Workshop on SFM: Designing the Vehicles for Securing the Means of Implementation

Kathmandu, Nepal
2–6 March 2015

ITTO was invited to this workshop, which was hosted by the Government of Nepal, to deliver a case study on the Organization's work in implementing SFM on the ground. The UN Major Groups crafted recommendations to the UNFF for improving their capacity to carry out of SFM.

FLEGT Week

Brussels, Belgium
16–19 March 2015

ITTO contributed to FLEGT Week with presentations at special sessions on the results of the IMM, the current situation of African cherry (*Prunus africana*), the VPA process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (where ITTO is supporting the development of non-detriment findings for *Pericopsis elata*), and the ITTO–CITES Programme.

The Bonn Challenge 2.0: Implementing Restoration Partnerships and the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Partnership

Bonn, Germany
20–21 March 2015

ITTO contributed to this meeting by highlighting how the *ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests* could be used as a tool for achieving restoration targets under the Bonn Challenge.

International Day of Forests

21 March 2015

As part of celebrations for the International Day of Forests, ITTO released its *Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests* and the *Technical Guide on the Quantification of Carbon Benefits in ITTO Projects* to support continued progress towards SFM in the tropics. The theme of the 2015 International Day of Forests was "Forests, Climate and Change", designed to highlight the strong links between forests and climate change and to rally global support for forests as a way of mitigating and adapting to climate change.



FAO Eighth Executive Forest Policy Course

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
22 March–3 April 2015

ITTO presented at this training course on the changing pattern of the forest products trade—both within the Association of South East Asian Nations region and globally.

Workshop on Integrating Climate and Forest Financing in Southeast Asia

Bangkok, Thailand
23–25 March 2015

ITTO participated in this workshop—hosted jointly by the UNFF and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific—as a speaker and moderator. ITTO's presentation focused on SFM and REDD+ and the results of the REDDES thematic programme. The outcomes of the workshop were reported at the 11th session of the UNFF.

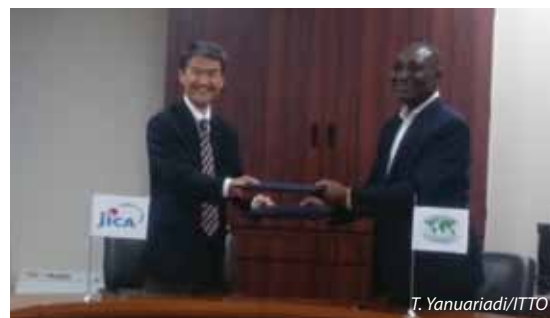
APFNet Council

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
27–29 April 2015

ITTO attended this first meeting of the Council of the Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APFNet) and participated in discussions on Council rules and procedures, project appraisal, membership and strategic planning to 2020. ITTO was confirmed as a formal member of the APFNet Council.



Addressing the issue of illegal logging: Panelists at the International Symposium to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade take questions from the floor.



Together for tropical forests: ITTO and JICA have extended their collaboration to 2020.

11th Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
New York, USA
4–15 May 2015

ITTO participated in the session, including on deliberations on the post-2015 international arrangement on forests, and took part in associated meetings of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

Visit from Laval University
Yokohama, Japan
7 May 2015

A group of students from Laval University in Quebec, Canada, visited ITTO to learn about the implementation of SFM in the tropics.

3rd World Teak Conference
Guayaquil, Ecuador
12–16 May 2015

ITTO participated in this conference as a silver sponsor. An ITTO representative delivered concluding remarks on teak use and sustainability.

Global Seminars for Youth
Yokohama, Japan
18 May and 21 August 2015

ITTO participated in two seminars hosted by the Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges (YOKE), delivering lectures to Japanese high-school and university students on the values and benefits provided by tropical forests.

Training on Bamboo Industry Development
Hangzhou, China
18 May–12 July 2015

This training was provided to 37 participants from 20 ITTO member countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America under an existing cooperation arrangement with the Chinese Academy of Forestry.

International Symposium to Combat Illegal Logging and Associated Trade
Tokyo, Japan
12 June 2015

Approximately 300 participants gathered at the United Nations University in Tokyo, Japan, for this symposium on illegal tropical forest logging and associated trade. Participants explored the actions that could be taken to combat illegal logging and promote credible timber legality assurances. The symposium was organized by the Committee for Wood Utilization Caravan to Bridge Forest and City of Japan in cooperation with ITTO, and it was sponsored by the Japan Forestry Agency.

ITTO and Japan International Cooperation Agency extend collaboration
Yokohama, Japan
30 June 2015

An agreement extending collaboration between ITTO and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to 2020 was signed at ITTO headquarters in mid-2015. The aim of the collaboration is to implement joint activities for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest resources in the context of the ITTO action plans, biennial work programmes and thematic programmes and JICA's programme of work on nature conservation.

Conference on Species Identification and Timber Tracking in Africa
Douala, Cameroon
1–2 July 2015

This conference, which was attended by 70 participants from 18 countries, presented the results of ITTO project PD 620/11 Rev.1 (M), which helped develop innovative approaches to species identification and timber tracking. Topics covered include regulatory developments aimed at combating illegal logging; genetics and stable isotopes; wood anatomy; blind tests; DNA barcoding; and technology for genetic timber verification and its transfer to African countries.



Spreading knowledge: Participants collect ITTO publications at the XIV World Forestry Congress.



Showcasing tropical forests: The ITTO booth at the Yokohama Kokusai Festa.

Korean Forest Service, ITTO, REDD+ and climate change
Yokohama, Japan
2 July 2015

A delegation from the Korean Forest Service visited ITTO to learn about ITTO's experiences in implementing SFM in the context of REDD+ and climate change.

Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission
Bangkok, Thailand
5–6 August 2015

ITTO attended the 11th executive committee meeting of the Commission and provided inputs for the preparation of the third Asia-Pacific Forestry Week, ultimately held in 2016 on the theme "growing our future". ITTO led the Week's stream 1, "Pathways to prosperity", given its expertise on topics related to tropical timber markets and trade.

Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop on the Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
17–20 August 2015

This aim of this workshop, co-organized by ITTO, the Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia with support of Malaysia's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, was to contribute to the implementation of SFM in the Asia-Pacific region.

JICA trainees programme
Yokohama, Japan
7 September and 24 October 2015

In September, ITTO presented lectures to trainees of 15 countries as part of the JICA trainees programme on the Organization's field and policy work to promote SFM. A similar presentation was made in October for French-speaking trainees.

ITTO side-events at the XIV World Forestry Congress
Durban, South Africa
7–11 September 2015

ITTO held the following side-events at the XIV World Forestry Congress:

- "A new tool to guide us in tropical forests—the *Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests*" (co-organized with the governments of Malaysia and Switzerland) (7 September)
- "Better outcomes for people and forests—the importance of locally-tailored solutions, long-term commitments and working in partnership" (co-organized with BirdLife International and FAO) (8 September)
- "The ITTO–CITES Programme" (8 September)
- "Mangrove forests and ecosystems—opportunities and challenges for their future" (co-organized with the International Society for Mangrove Ecosystems) (9 September)
- "Electronic tools for ensuring timber legality and wood utilization" (co-organized with the Government of Guatemala) (10 September).

ITTO also staffed a booth to display and distribute its latest publications, videos and other works.

Yokohama Kokusai Festa
Yokohama, Japan
10–11 October 2015

ITTO participated in events organized by YOKE to promote awareness in Japanese society of the global environmental role of tropical forests.

ITTO booth at AFoCo Forest Week
Goyang City, Republic of Korea
13–14 October 2015

AFoCo, a cooperation initiative between the Association of South East Asian Nations and the Republic of Korea, held a week-long event on the theme of "mobilizing people and forest together for



Promoting tropical forests: ITTO's booth at AfoCo Forest Week 2015.

a greener Asia". ITTO presented outreach materials and videos and delivered a presentation at a plenary session titled, "Forest law enforcement, governance and trade: beyond timber legality".

ITTO side-event at the Sixth International Wildfire Conference

**Pyeongchang, Gangwon, Republic of Korea
15 October 2015**

ITTO provided financial assistance for the participation of 14 members of the African, Asian and Latin American regional wildland fire networks in this conference. ITTO-supported participants made presentations on the results of ITTO-financed projects on forest fire management.

22nd CITES Plants Committee Meeting: Protecting High-value Tropical Trees

**Tbilisi, Georgia
19–23 October 2015**

Leading experts worldwide met at this meeting to discuss the conservation status and exploitation levels of several high-value timber and tropical hardwood species, including African teak, rosewood and ebony, as well as economically valuable non-timber forest products, such as African cherry, agarwood and sandalwood.

Wood Chemical 2015

**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
4–5 November 2015**

ITTO delivered a keynote presentation at this conference on the changing pattern of the trade in tropical forest products.

Making Forest Concessions Work

**Rome, Italy
24–25 November 2015**

The aim of this meeting was to develop a way forward for an ongoing initiative by ITTO, FAO, the Center for International Forestry Research, CIRAD and the Brazilian Forest Service to improve the policies and practices of forest concessions in tropical timber-producing countries.

ITTO at UNFCCC COP 21

Paris-Le Bourget, France

30 November–11 December 2015

ITTO presented outreach materials and videos at an exhibition booth for the duration of UNFCCC COP 21 and participated in several side-events, as described below.

REDD+ within INDCs, 1 December 2015

This side-event, titled "REDD+ within INDCs: governance lessons learnt from community forest management in tropics", reviewed the role of REDD+ in the INDCs submitted to the UNFCCC by Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar. It also addressed the role of REDD+ in the context of INDCs in achieving long-term climate goals; strengthening community forest management in the design and implementation of REDD+; and building on forest governance from community forest management practices and lessons. It introduced the Global Forest Watch platform, an online transparent mapping application providing near-real-time data on what is happening in forests worldwide.

ITTO organized the side-event jointly with the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Myanmar; the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia; the Forestry Administration, Cambodia; the World Resources Institute; and BirdLife International.

2015 Global Landscapes Forum, 6 December 2015

In a knowledge-sharing session at the Global Landscapes Forum, the World Resources Institute presented case studies used in an assessment of the *ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded Secondary Tropical Forests*. The purpose of the session was to increase understanding of the factors to be taken into account in successful forest and landscape restoration and management.

ITTO bamboo project, 10 December 2015

The ITTO-financed project PD 600/11 Rev.1 (I): "Model capacity building for efficient and sustainable utilization of bamboo resources in Indonesia" was presented during the session "Smart cities and green industry" at the Indonesian Pavilion, highlighting the role of bamboo in Indonesia in increasing resilience in the face of climate change and in absorbing carbon.

REDD+, Community Forestry and Women

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

15–16 December 2015

ITTO convened this international workshop to share information and experiences on the implementation of REDD+ and community forestry and the strategic role of women in mitigating climate change. The aim was to accelerate the implementation of REDD+ readiness processes by ensuring the effective participation of all stakeholders, including women and marginalized people.



Profitable harvest: Integrated management systems such as this agroforestry system involving cacao in Ghana can provide diverse income-generating opportunities while also restoring landscapes, as shown in cases studies documented in an ITTO-commissioned study. Photo: E. Bawuah/FORIG

Community tree nursery, Mexico.
Photo: D. Douterlungne/PRONATURA, AC

9 Knowledge management, publications and outreach



A report recommending the development of a knowledge management strategy for ITTO was presented at the 49th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council (November 2013), with a focus on three pillars:

- Enhancing knowledge-sharing and dissemination
- Leveraging knowledge through partnerships
- Enabling knowledge use.

This section describes the implementation of the strategy in 2015.

Tropical Forest Update

ITTO published four editions of the *Tropical Forest Update* (TFU)—a newsletter promoting the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests—in 2015. Themes addressed in these editions were public timber procurement policies; wildfires; the development of EPDs for tropical timbers; and various other aspects of SFM and sustainable timber trade. The TFU is distributed free-of-charge to more than 15 000 individuals and organizations in more than 160 countries, and it is also available on the ITTO website.¹¹

¹¹ www.itto.int/tfu.



Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests. This is a fully revised version of ITTO's first policy guidance document on the sustainable management of natural tropical forests, which was published in 1990.

Europe's Changing Tropical Timber Trade. This baseline report was prepared in the inception phase of the IMM initiative to determine the state of EU markets for wood products before the issuance of import licences as part of the EU FLEGT programme. The IMM initiative was established under an ITTO project to support the implementation of bilateral VPAs between the EU and participating timber-supplying countries.

The Impact of Timber Procurement Policies: an Analysis of the Economic Effects of Governmental Procurement Policies in Tropical Timber Markets. This report analyses the impacts of timber procurement policies on timber demand, supply, costs and prices in relevant markets and their financial implications for timber exporting countries.

Technical Guide on the Quantification of Carbon Benefits in ITTO Projects. The aim of this guide is to support forest managers in monitoring and reporting on the carbon benefits of ITTO projects.

The two reports below on EPDs for ipê and cumarú decking strips in Brazil and for tropical African mahogany (khaya) lumber in Ghana are outputs of an activity under the 2013–2014 Biennial Work Programme.

Tropical Forest News

Four editions of the e-newsletter *Tropical Forest News* were published in 2015, providing subscribers with timely insights into ITTO's work and other relevant news and events. *Tropical Forest News* can be subscribed to via "Quicklinks" on the ITTO website; it is mobile-enabled, which means it can be read easily on tablets and smartphones.

Tropical Timber Market Report

Twenty-three editions of the *Tropical Timber Market Report* were published in 2015, providing news and information on tropical timber market trends and trade from around the world.¹²

Other reports¹³

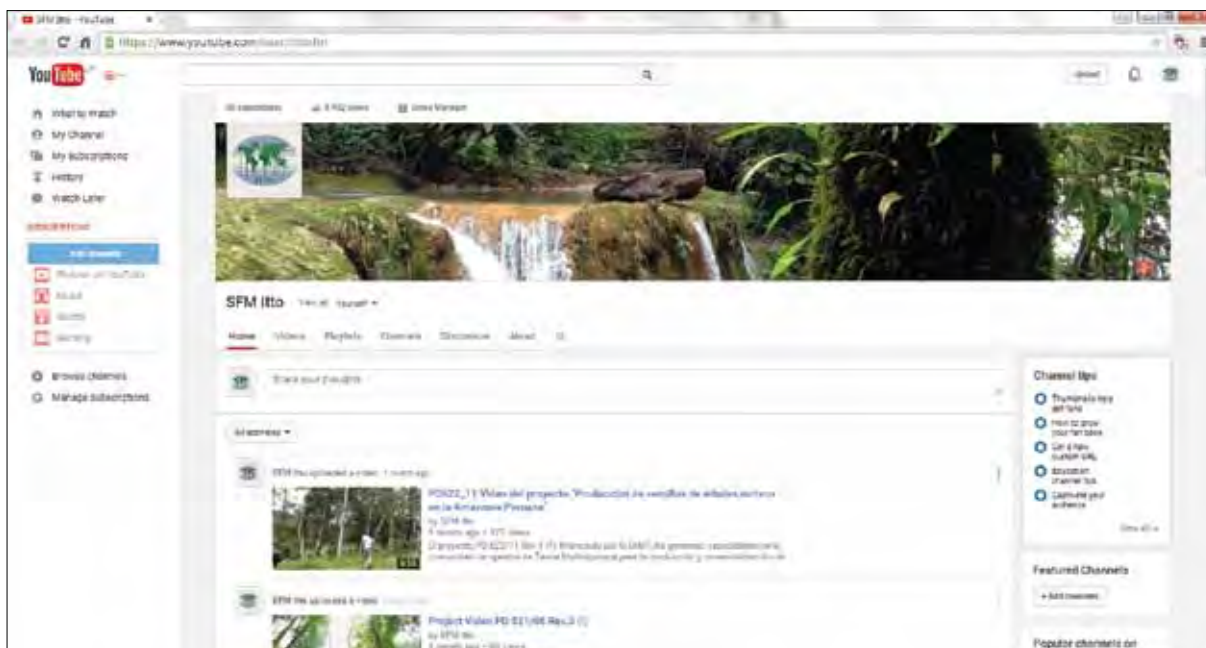
ITTO published or co-published the following reports and studies in 2015:

Biennial Review and Assessment of the World Timber Situation. This publication compiles the most up-to-date and reliable international statistics available on global production and trade of timber, with an emphasis on the tropics.



¹² Past editions of the Tropical Timber Market Report are available at: www.itto.int/mis_back_issues.

¹³ All reports mentioned here are available at: www.itto.int/annual_review; www.itto.int/technical_report; or www.itto.int/policypapers_guidelines.



ITTO website

The ITTO website (www.itto.int), which is available in English, French, Japanese and Spanish, was updated regularly in 2015. It contains a wide range of information on ITTO's work, such as top stories, news, calls for proposals, vacancy announcements, information for the International Tropical Timber Council and its committees, publications, databases, the Market Information Service, ITTO fellowships, thematic programmes, collaboration with the CBD and CITES, a listing of forthcoming events, and a search tool for the ITTO project database.

The project search tool has been well-received by members and forest stakeholders because it greatly facilitates access to the outputs of ITTO projects, including completion reports, technical reports and papers, ex-post evaluation reports, and dissemination materials such as posters and leaflets. The tool allows searches by parameters such as project ID; keyword; country; donor; status (i.e. completed, operational or seeking finance); area of work (i.e. economics, statistics

and markets; forest industry; and reforestation and forest management); and thematic programmes, thus enhancing the dissemination of the knowledge gained through the implementation of ITTO field projects.

Publicity

ITTO produced a variety of posters and other publicity materials in 2015 to promote the numerous activities and outputs of the Organization.

YouTube channel

ITTO shares videos on its work in various languages via a YouTube channel.¹⁴ In 2015, ITTO added videos on Guatemala's efforts to improve its forest information system—an output of project TMT-PD 004/11 Rev.2 (M); the rehabilitation and management of mangroves and watersheds in the Doula-Edea Wildlife Reserve, an output of project PD 492/07 Rev. 3 (F); the sustainable use of non-timber forest products in Indonesia, an output of project PD 521/08 Rev.3 (I); the marketing of native plants to improve living standards and strengthen forest policies in the Peruvian Amazon, an output of project PD 622/11 Rev.1 (F); and the ITTO Fellowship Programme and Fellowship Network.

¹⁴ www.youtube.com/user/ittosfm.

The right coordinates: A forest official records the coordinates of a teak plantation as part of the development of Togo's Forest Geographical Information System, created under ITTO project PD 581/10 Rev.2 (F). Photo: G. Gbadoe/ODEF



10 Financial highlights

These financial highlights are summarized from ITTO's 2015 audited financial statements, which will be considered by the International Tropical Timber Council at its 52nd Session in November 2016.

Balance sheet

	31 December	
	2015	2014
	<i>(US dollars)</i>	
Assets		
Cash and time deposits	20 018 577	23 454 660
Net investments in securities	-	12 200 000
<i>Investments in securities</i>	12 014 000	12 200 000
<i>Less: provision for impairment of investment in securities</i>	(12 014 000)	-
Arrears in voluntary contributions	-	2 105 391
Accounts receivable from Japan	-	284 112
Prepaid expenses	35 658	39 336
Advances to and receivable from staff members and others	339 840	320 109
Accrued revenue	316	438 332
	20 394 391	38 841 939
Liabilities and contributions		
Accounts payable to staff members and others	10 089	21 755
Accounts payable to Japan	122 423	96 679
Accrued liabilities	397 812	572 515
Liabilities arising from exchange of notes	3 419 632	4 241 912
Membership contributions received in advance	46 705	176 272
Unappropriated funds	2 436 238	2 498 885
Reserve for programme support	1 337 230	1 543 317
	7 770 130	9 151 335
Members' funds		
Administrative account:		
Special reserve	1 500 000	1 500 000
Reserve provided by interest income	2 009 132	2 078 016
Surplus of revenues over expenditures	12 494 981	10 396 840
Project account:		
Appropriated for specified projects, pre-projects and activities	16 160 443	29 886 585
Unappropriated funds	2 306 874	(5 137 477)
Surplus from completed projects, pre-projects and activities	2 324 698	2 315 257
Impairment of investments in securities	(5 967 546)	(5 967 546)
Provision for impairment of investments in securities	(12 014 000)	-
	18 814 583	35 071 675
Arrears in assessed contributions	(6 215 042)	(5 405 793)
Allowance for arrears	24 720	24 720
	12 624 261	29 690 602
	20 394 391	38 841 939

Statement of revenue and expenditure

	Year ended 31 December	
	2015	2014
	<i>(US dollars)</i>	
Revenue		
Contributions from member countries	7 952 059	7 322 796
Reimbursement by Japan	260 077	772 803
Voluntary contributions	4 825 627	11 181 747
Rectification	-	(864 420)
Pledges not received	-	(32 302)
Interest income	403 663	952 895
Dividends	-	64 847
Other income	2 012	34 746
	13 443 437	19 433 111
Expenditure and others		
Administrative account		
Salaries and benefits	3 467 839	3 695 896
Official travel	86 515	122 895
Social security	710 284	725 514
Special activities	37 470	32 015
Data processing	122 156	86 628
Other costs	244 892	205 545
Council meetings	201 123	693 228
Communication and outreach	428 675	428 054
Expert meetings	100 003	129 376
Statistics, studies and information	251 157	283 034
Annual report and biennial review	30 000	30 286
Write-off of arrears in contributions	330 000	55 755
Exchange loss	37 340	124 570
Time delay (reversal) in settling advance payments	(122 627)	(46 368)
Gain and loss on securities	-	81 592
Allowance expense for arrears	-	-
Increase in provision for impairment of investment in securities	12 014 000	-
	17 938 829	6 648 020
Project account		
Project cost	11 426 172	11 126 761
	29 365 000	17 774 781
Excess of revenue over expenditure (Excess of expenditure over revenue)	(15 921 563)	1 658 331

11

Member states and votes

Member states and votes (as of 31 December 2015, under the ITTA 2006)

Two countries—Croatia and Thailand—acceded to the International Tropical Timber Agreement 2006 in 2015, thus increasing ITTO membership to 72, the largest ever.

Producer members (34)	No. of votes	Consumer members (38)	No. of votes
Africa			
Benin	23	Albania	10
Cameroon	23	Australia	16
Central African Republic	23	China	265
Congo	23	European Union	[382]
Côte d'Ivoire	23	Austria	10
Democratic Republic of the Congo	23	Belgium	15
Gabon	23	Bulgaria	10
Ghana	23	Croatia	10
Liberia	23	Cyprus	10
Mali	23	Czech Republic	11
Mozambique	23	Denmark	11
Togo	22	Estonia	10
		Finland	10
		France	33
		Germany	19
		Greece	11
		Hungary	10
		Ireland	13
		Italy	22
		Latvia	10
		Lithuania	10
		Luxembourg	10
		Malta	10
		Netherlands	30
		Poland	11
		Portugal	13
		Romania	10
		Slovakia	10
		Slovenia	10
		Spain	15
		Sweden	11
		United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	27
		Japan	164
		New Zealand	11
		Norway	10
		Republic of Korea	58
		Switzerland	11
		United States of America	73
		Total	1 000
Asia and the Pacific			
Cambodia	18		
Fiji	14		
India	28		
Indonesia	94		
Malaysia	97		
Myanmar	55		
Papua New Guinea	39		
Philippines	16		
Thailand	30		
Viet Nam	16		
Latin America and the Caribbean			
Brazil	131		
Colombia	25		
Costa Rica	12		
Ecuador	18		
Guatemala	12		
Guyana	16		
Honduras	12		
Mexico	25		
Panama	13		
Peru	28		
Suriname	15		
Trinidad and Tobago	11		
Total	1 000		

Acronyms and abbreviations

APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
BPF-B	Bali Partnership Fund, Sub-Account B
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CFME	(thematic programme on) Community Forest Management and Enterprises
CIRAD	Centre de coopération internationale en recherche agronomique pour le développement
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CoC	chain of custody
COP	Conference of the Parties
EPD	environmental product declaration
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GPFLR	Global Partnership for Forest and Landscape Restoration
IDE	(thematic programme on) Industry Development and Efficiency
IFM	integrated fire management
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IMM	Independent Market Monitoring
INDC	intended nationally determined contribution
ITTA	International Tropical Timber Agreement
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PNG	Papua New Guinea
REDD+	reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
REDDES	(thematic programme on) Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests
SFM	sustainable forest management
TAG	Trade Advisory Group
TFLET	(thematic programme on) Tropical Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
TFU	<i>Tropical Forest Update</i>
TMT	(thematic programme on) Trade and Market Transparency
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
US\$	United States dollar(s)
USA	United States of America
VPA	voluntary partnership agreement
WCA	Working Capital Account
YOKE	Yokohama Association for International Communications and Exchanges



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