In late 2008 the International Tropical Timber Council approved five new thematic programmes (TPs) on a pilot basis to help achieve ITTO’s objectives of sustaining tropical forests and the timber trade arising from them. This brochure provides a brief description of these pilot TPs, which, along with others that may be adopted, will become a permanent feature of ITTO’s work when a new governing treaty comes into force in 2011.
The five TPs are all essential elements of sustainable forest management. Support for any of the Programmes contributes to the efforts towards sustainability.
A brief description of the five thematic programmes

Tropical Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

The general objective of the TFLET Programme is to improve national forest law enforcement and governance in tropical ITTO member countries in order to enhance and diversify international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed forests and to help alleviate poverty in those countries. 18 projects in 19 countries have been approved and funded under the TFLET programme to date.

Target Funding for Pilot Phase: US$ 15,000,000
Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests

The general objective of the REDDES Programme is to help improve livelihoods by reducing deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing environmental services through the sustainable management of tropical forests, forest restoration, afforestation, reforestation and other related activities. 10 projects in 15 countries have been approved and funded under the REDDES programme to date.

Target Funding for Pilot Phase: US$ 18,000,000

Community Forest Management and Enterprises

The general objective of the CFME Programme is to contribute to poverty reduction in tropical forest areas by: (i) strengthening the ability of forest communities and smallholders to sustainably manage their tropical forest resources; and (ii) assisting them to add value to and market the products and services obtained from these resources. 5 projects in 4 countries have been approved and funded under the CFME programme to date.

Target Funding for Pilot Phase: US$ 10,000,000
Trade and Market Transparency

The general objectives of the TMT Programme are to: (i) increase the capacity of producer member countries to develop and employ market intelligence and marketing skills; and (ii) improve market transparency through improved data and analysis. One project has been approved and funded under the TMT programme to date.

Target Funding for Pilot Phase: US$ 5,000,000

Industry Development and Efficiency

The general objective of the IDE Programme is to strengthen the capacity of tropical timber producing countries to: (i) increase the production, further processing and trade of tropical timber and other forest products and services from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests; and (ii) improve efficiency in the processing and utilization of tropical timber and timber products and non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Target Funding for Pilot Phase: US$ 10,000,000
Unsustainable practices in and around Ghana’s Ankasa conservation area have led to deforestation and degradation, while decreasing the quality of environmental services and increasing greenhouse gas emissions.

This project aims to contribute to the sustainable management and conservation of the Ankasa conservation area in order to improve the provision of environmental services and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

It plans to develop and implement a participatory governance and management system for the area, determine the financial value of the environmental services provided from the area as well as to define methods for measurement, assessment, reporting and verification (MARV) for forest carbon.

This project focuses on avoided deforestation and forest degradation through effective participation of local communities in forest conservation. The project will produce the following positive impacts: reduction in loss of forest biomass and consequent emissions of GHG in the project area; increase of forest carbon stocks; improvements in biodiversity, watershed conditions and other environmental services; and lessons on governance issues and benefit sharing arrangements for REDD in Ghana.

**Thematic programme donors**

Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, USA, United Kingdom, Germany, Australia, Finland, New Zealand, Sweden, Republic of Korea, Japan Lumber Importers’ Association
Get involved.

ITTO’s work is primarily funded through governmental agencies of member countries. However ITTO welcomes donations to its thematic programmes from all interested parties.

For more information on ITTO’s Thematic Programmes, including possibilities to contribute to funding please contact:

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