

An International Workshop on Clean Development Mechanism – Opportunities and Challenges for the Forest Industry Sector in Sub-Saharan Tropical Africa Ghana

Final Report

PD 337/05 Rev.3 (F)

I. Introduction

The project was approved by the Council at its Thirty-eighth Session in June 2005 in Brazzaville, Congo, and fully funded at the same Session. However, the Secretariat of the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) expressed interest in financing this project, provided that its contribution to the budget be reduced from US\$ 120,000 to US\$ 100,000. The amended version of the project based on the modified ITTO budget scaled down in accordance with the CFC recommendations was endorsed by the Council at its Thirty-ninth Session in Yokohama, Japan. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 23 March 2006 and the first disbursement of ITTO funds was made in April 2006.

II. Project Objective

The objective of the project is to promote the participation of African tropical timber producing countries in Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects through the organization of an international workshop that would improve the understanding of CDM mechanisms and identify opportunities, constraints and challenges for African timber producing countries. The workshop intends to create awareness in CDM opportunities for Africa; identify current trends and potential impacts of carbon forestry on the global forest sector, with an emphasis on Sub-Saharan African tropical timber producing countries; explore opportunities and challenges for the effective participation of Sub-Saharan African tropical timber producing countries in CDM projects and other carbon forestry activities; explore the potential for establishing carbon emissions trading markets for Africa; and consider emerging issues such as reducing emissions from deforestation.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

The implementation of the project resulted in the organization of an international workshop and the production of the workshop proceedings. The achievement of the project can be summarized as follows:

- The International Workshop on Clean Development Mechanism – Opportunities and Challenges for the Forest Industry Sector in Sub-Saharan Tropical Africa was held on 2-5 October 2006 at Cresta Royale Hotel in Accra, Ghana in collaboration with CFC and FAO. The workshop was attended by over 80 delegates from ITTO producer and consumer member countries, CFC member countries in Africa

and representatives from Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Speakers were drawn from ITTO, FAO, UNFCCC, UNDP, COMIFAC, CIFOR, Joannuem Institute, Intercooperation, Corporacion Ecovera, EcoSecurities and the African Development Bank.

- The major outcome of the workshop was enhanced appreciation of the significant opportunities available to Africa under the Kyoto Protocol's CDM in attracting new and additional investments in support of forestry and renewable energy projects. The role of forestry and renewable energy projects in contributing to the mitigation of global warming was thoroughly explained, as well as the methodologies for identifying and developing eligible projects.
- The outcome of the workshop was introduced to the ITTO Newsletter, *Tropical Forest Update (2006, No 4)*. The outcome was also reported by the delegation from Ghana at the 39th session of the Committee.
- The workshop presentation materials and outcome of the working groups' discussion were produced on CD ROM which was made available to participants during the workshop. The workshop proceedings have been edited and circulated to interested parties.

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop raised a lot of issues and questions that need to be addressed and pursued for strategic options to be taken regarding development of CDM projects in Africa. The recommendations of the workshop include that special attention should be given toward supporting capacity building for African countries at different levels (negotiators, project proponents, brokers, etc); ITTO is encouraged to facilitate regional Workshops aimed at increasing the capacities in producer countries for the appropriate use of the CDM in the forest sector as well as exploring the opportunities of reducing emissions from deforestation; public awareness of the value of CDM in the forest sector should be enhanced; and multilateral institutions should give priority to the role forest ecosystems and the forest sector play in adapting to climate change.

The workshop made significant contribution to the analysis and understanding of the opportunities and challenges for the effective participation of Sub-Saharan African tropical timber producing countries in CDM projects and carbon forestry activities. The expectation is that the continued implementation of recommendations made by the workshop and the support by all interested agencies will contribute immensely towards the sustainability and improvement of CDM forestry projects in Africa.

IV. Lessons Learnt

The main lessons learned from the implementation of the project include the following:

- The process of developing AR CDM projects is complicate and time consuming because it requires project developers to abide by various rules and modalities applying to AR CDM. Creating new methodologies and even applying an approved methodology to a proposed project requires a considerable cost and time.
- Participants in the workshop were grouped into six working groups to brainstorm and identify financial, legal and administrative constraints for developing CDM projects in Africa. This facilitated the identification of recommendations of the workshop.
- Abstracts from presenters and speakers should have been requested for and collated prior to or during the workshop to avoid delays in putting the workshop proceedings together. There was a considerable delay in the publication of the workshop proceedings due to the inability of workshop organizers to collate abstracts from presenters/speakers after the workshop and the failure of the Editorial Committee that was put in place by the Project Steering Committee to edit the workshop proceedings.

V. Concluding Remarks

The Executing Agency has submitted the completion report and the workshop proceedings to the ITTO Secretariat in accordance with the project agreement signed with ITTO. In November 2008, the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management declared this project complete, subject to the submission of the final audited financial statements on the use of project funds.