

Terms of Reference

Consultant # 7-1: Teak and other valuable species Strategy Development

‘Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics (PP-A/54-331A)’

1. Background

The project (PP-A/54-331A) aims to support the participating countries' policies and strategic goals in promoting the sustainable management of teak resources and plantation efforts on public and private land. Additionally, the project focuses on the certification and legality of sustainably produced timber, including that from small- and medium-sized enterprises, along with enhanced value chain processes in the wood industry and promote carbon-supported plantation development. Building on ITTO's comparative advantage, the project leverages the organization's expertise in addressing forestry issues that require strong public, private, and community collaboration. ITTO's proven track record in policy development and capacity-building initiatives in its producer member countries further strengthens the project's foundation.

The development of management models for smallholder value chains in teak and other valuable species plantations and the introduction of supportive finance systems will encourage smallholders and forest communities to plan the sustainable management of plantation resources and quality timber production in longer rotations and efficient timber and timber products processing. Cooperation with smallholder farmers and entrepreneurs will increase livelihood opportunities for local residents and reduce pressures on the unsustainable use of forests. The Project also will assist in practical application of the certification of sustainability of forest management, and the verification of timber legality. The capacity building program of the Project will be based on a rapid, participatory training needs assessment that will be implemented in close cooperation with forestry authorities, academic and research institutions, NGOs and interested development partners.

The project leverages existing experiences and knowledge from relevant ITTO projects on teak and other valuable species through South-South cooperation in the three tropical regions. Field activities in selected countries in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa will focus on smallholder farming systems, integrating valuable native multifunctional species to provide alternate income sources alongside teak planting for long rotations. Key collaborating agencies include the Cambodia Forestry Administration, Thailand's Royal Forestry Department and the Kasetsart University, Vietnam Administration of Forestry/Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehra Dun, and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry. In Togo (West Africa), the University of Lomé will play a pivotal role.

The project also aims at harnessing synergies with other organizations working in the same field such as IUFRO and TEAKNET. A specific collaboration with the Thünen Institute of Forestry will be arranged to carry out feasibility studies for financing schemes for smallholders' teak and other valuable species plantations. The project will explore recent incentive programs and improve smallholders' access to finance and long-term investments to meet market specifications.

2. Principle Tasks

The principle tasks of **Consultant #7: Teak and other valuable species strategy development** are to outline key policy messages and recommendations for promoting sustainable quality timber production from smallholders and community-based teak plantations in the tropics.

These tasks should actively support the effective and successful implementation of the project activities 2.1-2.4, and forest policy development (regional scope) (Activity 3.1).

The key functions and responsibilities include:

- Support the initiation and effective implementation of project components in under the guidance of the Regional Project Manager.
- Analyze national policies and legal frameworks for domestic and foreign investments in smallholder teak and other valuable species plantations in the participating countries.
- Conduct research and literature on the development of teak and other valuable species markets and trade, along with teak forest certification in participating countries
- Conduct research on the establishment of teak and other valuable species plantations, as well as the development of markets and trade
- Present research findings to the Project Technical Committee (PTC) and Project Steering Committee (PSC), the Regional Workshop, and the 5th WTC as required.
- Contribute articles to the ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter and the ITTO Tropical Forest Update (TFU).

3. Duration

The duration of the assignment will be 3 man-months over the period of 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2026.

4. Honorarium

The consultant will receive a package honorarium payment of US\$ 18,000.00 based on the budget item

A10 (Consultant # 7-1 Teak and other valuable species strategy development) specified in the project document. This budget amount also covers travel costs and DSA of the assigned consultant to attend the required meetings and data gathering in the participating countries.

Payment will be made as follows:

- 4.1 The 1st installment of US\$ 6,000.00 will be made with the submission of a report on the organization of a webinar in November 2024
- 4.2 The 2nd installment of US\$6,000.00 in 2025 will be made after the submission of technical reports on the research conducted in the participating countries focusing on teak and other valuable species markets and certification development
- 4.3 The 3th and final installment of US\$ 6,000 will be made in 2026 with the submission of policy briefs and an article to ITTO TFU.

5. Deliverables

The consultant is required to submit the following outputs to the Regional Project Manager:

- A technical report on the development of teak and other valuable species forest certification as well as markets and trade
- Presentation materials in the Regional Workshops Indonesia, along with contributions to the outcome of these events Presentational materials in the Fifth World Teak Conference in 2025 in Kerala, India and inputs to the Conference report and recommendations.
- One policy brief around 10 pages covering teak investment strategies, including benefit-sharing mechanisms, empowering smallholders in teak and other valuable species plantations, and carbon markets for plantation teak, aimed at promoting legal and sustainable supply and value chains of smallholder teak and other valuable species plantations.
- Articles for the ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter and the ITTO Tropical Forest Update (TFU).
