

Terms of Reference

Consultant # 7-2: Teak and Other Valuable Species Networking and Communication

‘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 #72: Teak and other valuable species networking and communication** are to promote sustainable quality timber production from smallholders and community-based teak and other valuable species plantations and sharing knowledge in the tropics.

These tasks should actively support the effective and successful implementation of the project activities 1.2, teak networking in the Asia-Pacific and West Africa regions through ITTO's member countries and partners (Activity 3.2), and sharing project lessons on sustainable teak and other valuable species forest management and legal and sustainable supply chains at two regional workshops (Activity 3.3), and the 5th World Teak Conference in 2025 in India (Activity 3.4).

The key functions and responsibilities include:

- Facilitate the organization of quarterly webinars from October 2024 to December 2026, contributing to discussions on sustainable teak supply and value chains fostering partnerships for a sustainable global teak and other valuable species sector under the guidance of Regional Project Manager.
- Support the initiation and effective implementation of project components in India under the guidance of the Regional Project Manager.
- Support the organization of the 2nd Regional Workshops (2026), in collaboration with the Regional Project Manager; deliver presentations on teak investment strategies and regional cooperation for quality timber production from smallholder plantations.
- Support the organization of the Fifth World Teak Conference in late 2025 in Kerala, India, in partnership with TEAKNET and other stakeholders; present and moderate a session as a resource person; contribute to the formulation of conference messages and recommendations.
- Present research findings and webinars' outcomes to the Project Technical Committee (PTC) and Project Steering Committee (PSC) 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 from 1 October 2024 to 31 December 2026.

4. Honorarium

The consultant will receive a package honorarium payment of USD 18,000.00 based on the budget item A10 (Consultant # 7-2 Teak and other valuable species networking and communication) specified in the project document. This budget amount also covers travel costs and DSA of the assigned consultant to attend the required meetings.

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 the webinar report (2nd until 7th webinars) and report of the Fifth World Teak Congress.
- 4.3 The 3th and final installment of US\$ 6,000 will be made in 2026 with the submission of the webinars report (8th until 12th webinars), and results of the 2nd regional workshop.

5. Deliverables

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

- Reports on project's 12 webinars on sustainable teak and other valuable species supply and value chains and other subjects
- Key finding reports derived from the 2nd Regional Workshops, and the Fifth World Teak Conference in 2025 in Kerala, India
- Presentation materials in the Regional Workshops in 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.
- Articles for the ITTO-BMEL Teak Newsletter and the ITTO Tropical Forest Update (TFU) on the key messages of the webinars.
