

**AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION (ACTO)
INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION (ITTO)**

Terms of Reference

**CONTRACTING OF EXPERT CONSULTANT IN TROPICAL AMAZON FOREST
MANAGEMENT**

I. Title: Implementation of the process of harmonizing the sustainability criteria and indicators for the Amazon forest - "Tarapoto Criteria and Indicators" - with the "Criteria for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests" of the International Tropical Timber Organization.

II. Background

In the 39th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council the organization's Executive Director was requested to implement and/or facilitate the implementation of the activities approved in the Biennial Work Programme 2006-2007. These included conducting a regional workshop to harmonize the ITTO C&I and the Tarapoto Process, continuing to monitor progress in the application of criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management, and taking measures to strengthen cooperation and collaboration between the member countries of ITTO and ACTO with regard to C&I and associated matters.

The ITTO criteria and indicators (C&I) were first published as "Criteria for the sustainable management of natural tropical forests". This document was revised in 1998 to take into account the many things happening within ITTO and around the world after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (1992), among them the publication by ITTO of a set of policy guidelines on pertinent topics and the development of parallel C&I processes for temperate and boreal forests. In 1998 ITTO launched a training initiative for the public and private sectors of its member countries through national projects and workshops on using C&I to monitor, evaluate and report on forest management. Its overall objective was to promote large scale implementation of sustainable forest management in tropical member countries. These countries now inform ITTO of their forest management status through standard C&I reporting formats (both nationally and at the forest management unit level -FMU) that were formulated and approved in 2001.

Taking into account these successful experiences, in 2003 the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) requested the organization's Executive Director through Decision 4(XXXIV) to make provision for a group of experts to examine the products of the national training workshops and an international meeting of experts and other relevant forums. It also recommended the Council's 36th Session to revise of the C&I formats and reporting formats.

This revision process called attention to the great number of ITTO producer member countries that had implemented national C&I systems based on those of ITTO (many of them through the organization's projects), among them the "ATO/ITTO harmonized principles, criteria and indicators for the sustainable management of African natural tropical forests". ITTO was aware of the potential impacts that may result from revising its C&I, whose changes would need to be incorporated into the set national of C&I based on them. The revised C&I and the reporting formats therefore included neither wholesale nor substantial changes, but sought to reduce the duplication of efforts, improve awareness and make the process clearer. The main goal of revising the ITTO C&I was to improve their effectiveness as a monitoring tool.

The Tarapoto Criteria and Indicators were defined in the framework of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT). The ACT was signed by Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela in 1978 to foster regional cooperation for sustainable development. The C&I development process that began in 1995 and ended in 2001 incorporated extensive national and regional consultations. That year, the Member Countries of ACTO selected 15 of

the 77 indicators available as priorities for assessing sustainable forest management. In 2004 the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), with the support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), began validating the selected indicators to assess the feasibility of their implementation. This validation initiative produced various lessons to be used by the countries in applying the C&I and allowed the Member Countries of ACTO to discuss and achieve a consensus on the primary indicators to be incorporated in national forest management routines.

In the last decade the ITTO and Tarapoto C&I guided debates and policy decisions in the Amazon countries and were incorporated in national forest-related policies in different spheres and with various levels of influence. Nowadays the Tarapoto indicators also guide regional debates on the international agreement on forests. The consensus achieved throughout the development of the Tarapoto indicators for the sustainability of the Amazon forest exemplify the understanding achieved by the countries on the subject.

III. Overall objective of the initiative

Strengthen cooperation and collaboration between ITTO and ACTO to develop a strategy for applying the sustainable forest management C&I, prepare a proposal to harmonize the ITTO and Tarapoto C&I, and conduct a regional assessment on the implementation and current use of these systems.

IV. Objectives of the Consultancy

(i) Prepare a proposal to harmonize the ITTO and Tarapoto C&I for sustainable forest management; (ii) Develop a proposal for a regional strategy (regional project) to adopt, implement and consolidate the harmonized C&I.

V. Activities to develop

- a. Sustain coordination meetings with the ACTO/ITTO Working Group.
- b. Prepare a work plan after the first meeting with the ACTO/ITTO WG.
- c. Revise and systematize the national reports on the Tarapoto and ITTO C&I validation process, the final reports, the Tarapoto process document and other pertinent documents, as indicated by the WG.
- d. Coordinate the agenda of country visits with the ACTO/ITTO WG. Prepare and present to the ACTO/ITTO WG the methodology to be used in the consultations with the national forest authorities to gather elements for the Tarapoto and ITTO C&I harmonization proposal.
- e. Conduct national consultations in the 8 Member Countries of ACTO to gather inputs, guidance and recommendations from the forest authorities for the proposal to harmonize, implement and consolidate the use of C&I.
- f. Prepare the harmonized C&I proposal and a regional strategy to implement and consolidate the C&I in the Member Countries of ACTO in the form of a regional project proposal. Present these to the WG and make whatever adjustments are indicated.
- g. Prepare the ToR for the regional workshop to validate the harmonized C&I and the regional project proposal.
- h. Prepare the regional workshop report, containing, among other aspects: (i) the adjusted and validated C&I harmonization proposal; (ii) the regional project proposal, incorporating the recommendations and observations issued in the workshop.
- i. Prepare a paper with lessons learned in the national consultations and regional workshop and an assessment of the results of applying the C&I in the Member Countries of ACTO as attachments to the regional workshop report.

VI. Outputs

1. Consultancy work plan.
2. Methodology for the national consultations.
3. ITTO and Tarapoto C&I harmonization proposal.
4. Regional project proposal that reflects a regional strategy to implement and consolidate the C&I in the Member Countries of ACTO.
5. Terms of reference for the regional workshop, including detailed methodology.
6. Regional workshop report, with the attachments indicated in point V.i.

VII. Consultant Profile

- Professional with at least five years of practical experience in forest management, with emphasis in tropical forests.
- Experience formulating criteria and indicators for tropical forest administration and management.
- Professional experience in countries of the Amazon Basin.
- Excellent analysis and systematization skills and good oral and written expression.
- Mastery of Spanish and English; knowledge of Portuguese would be desirable.
- Have published technical-scientific studies or articles (at least one of them in the last two years).
- Familiarity with Excel, Word and PowerPoint software.

VIII. Implementation Schedule

Three (3) months of effective non-continuous work, in accordance with the country consultations schedule and as determined by the ACTO/ITTO-WG. The ACTO/ITTO WG coordination meetings will take place in the ACTO/PS headquarters or in the ITTO Regional Office, both located in Brasilia, Brazil.

IX. Remuneration

The remuneration established for this consultancy is USD 30,000 total and includes the costs of visits to the Member Countries of ACTO (tickets, lodging, transport, visas and food). The consultant will receive a lump sum that includes insurance and expenses with transfer, installation and residence in the location where the services are rendered. The payment will be: signing of the contract 40%, plus 30% upon completion and delivery of the draft proposal and finally 30% by delivery to satisfaction of the products (item VI).

X. Coordination

The consultant will work directly under the ACTO/PS Environment Coordinator as the focal point of the ACTO/ITTO WG. The consultant will also coordinate specific activities with the advisors of the Regional Amazon Program, which supports the implementation of the process to harmonize the C&I for sustainable forest management in the Amazon, and with the ITTO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.