



THIRTY-SECOND SESSION  
13 - 18 May 2002  
Bali, Indonesia

**DECISION 11(XXXII)**

**THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF PHASED APPROACHES TO CERTIFICATION  
IN TROPICAL TIMBER PRODUCER COUNTRIES AS A TOOL TO PROMOTE  
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of Members to the process of advancing ITTO Objective 2000;

Recalling Decision 10(XXX) on Certification;

Recognizing that ITTO as an international organization should not endorse, create or adopt, or be perceived to endorse, any particular certification approach or scheme, including any accompanying standards developed for the purpose of certification;

Noting the Report on the ITTO International Workshop on Comparability and Equivalence of Forest Certification Schemes as contained in Document ITTC(XXXII)/10;

Recognizing forest certification as an important voluntary market-based tool to encourage and create incentives for sustainable forest management and improving market transparency;

Underscoring that certification schemes should be voluntary, non-discriminatory, transparent and market-oriented;

Recognizing that while the ITTO Criteria and Indicators were developed to assess progress towards sustainable forest management, performance standards would be required for the purposes of certification;

Recognizing the role of ITTO in promoting market access as provided for in the objectives of the ITTA, 1994, and the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006;

Recognizing the role of ITTO in improving transparency of the international timber market and promoting tropical timber from sustainably-managed sources as stipulated in the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006;

Recognizing the potential contribution of certification to sustainable forest management, including forest law enforcement and related trade;

Recognizing that many tropical timber producing countries have made considerable progress towards sustainable forest management, and that at the same time those countries account for a very small percentage of the coverage of certified forests around the world;

Recognizing that in many tropical timber countries there is a wide gap between the existing level of management and what is required by certification;

Recognizing that tropical timber countries face many institutional, social, human resource and financial constraints to achieve sustainable forest management;

Recognizing the potential role of regional consultations in advancing discussions on comparability and equivalence among certification schemes, and in assisting tropical timber producing countries to meet sustainable forest management standards and to achieve certification;

Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants, one from producer and the other from consumer country to undertake a study on the potential of phased approaches to certification as a tool to promote sustainable forest management, as per the attached Terms of Reference;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to convene three regional workshops to disseminate and discuss the results and implications of the study, with recommendations to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council based on the attached Terms of Reference;
3. Request the Executive Director to facilitate improved understanding, information-sharing and dialogue between interested parties from both consumer and producer countries on these phased approaches;
4. Encourage Member Countries to support project proposals for national capacity building to engage in forest certification in producer Member Countries, including institutional strengthening, stakeholder participation, auditing systems, training and better public understanding of the role of certification as regards to sustainable forest management; and
5. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member Countries to meet the financial requirements of this Decision, not exceeding US\$297,980.00.

## **ANNEX**

### **Terms of Reference for Consultants**

The consultants, one from a producer and the other from a consumer country, will undertake a study on the potential role of phased approaches to certification as a tool to promote sustainable forest management.

The study will include the following items:

- a) Consult with relevant parties, including buyers groups, consumer groups, industry, retailers, certifiers, certification schemes, forest owners and managers, governments, environmental and social NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples
- b) Elaborate the concept and reflect the full range of views as regards to phased approaches to certification
- c) Identify existing models and initiatives on phased approaches to certification
- d) Analyse the elements and operations of the existing models and initiatives
- e) Collect and analyse information on market acceptance of the existing models and initiatives
- f) Identify key issues, potentials, risks, and constraints on possible designs and implementation of phased approaches
- g) Identify and elaborate on common elements and stages of phased approaches
- h) Prepare a preliminary report to present at the Thirty-third Session of the Council
- i) Taking into consideration comments and views of Member Countries and the Workshop participants, finalize the report and present to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council

### **Terms of Reference for the Workshops**

The three Regional Workshops will be three days duration each and convened in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America between the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Sessions of the Council.

The purpose of the Workshop will be to disseminate and discuss results and implications of the study and comments from Member countries, and make recommendations to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council.

The Secretariat, in extending invitations to participants, should seek to provide a balance of the following views at the Workshop:

- producer and consumer Member Countries
- forest owners and managers
- certification schemes
- environmental and social NGOs
- local communities and indigenous peoples
- buyers groups and consumer groups
- industry, traders and retailers

Priority for sponsorship should be given to participants from producer Member Countries.

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