



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
28 May – 3 June 1999
Chiang Mai, Thailand

DECISION 9(XXVI)

MATTERS RELATING TO MARKET ACCESS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 2(XXI) and Decision 2(XXIII) on market access opportunities for international trade in tropical timber;

Noting the report and recommendations of the two consultants on trade impediments to market access for tropical timber;

Further noting the concerns and comments of ITTO member countries on the issue of market access for tropical timber in the annual market discussions;

Reaffirming the importance of market access opportunities in assisting countries to generate financial resources to help implement national policies that promote sustainable forest management;

Recognising the importance of improving public understanding of the potential positive contribution of international tropical timber trade to sustainable forest management;

Decides to:

1. Request members to inform the Council at the Twenty-eighth Session on progress made with regard to measures undertaken to eliminate possible obstacles to market access for tropical timber as a possible means to facilitate sustainable forest management pursuant to Decision 2(XXI);
2. Request the Executive Director to undertake greater efforts to foster better understanding of the role and activities of ITTO in member countries as well as the role of tropical timber trade in contributing towards sustainable forest management. These efforts could include dissemination of information on:
 - i) efforts and progress towards sustainable forest management in producer countries;
 - ii) the problem and causes of tropical deforestation;
 - iii) the role of trade in contributing towards sustainable forest management.
3. Request the Executive Director to explore the options and issues concerning holding Council Sessions in consuming countries taking into considerations cost implications, logistics, benefits, etc.;
4. Request the Executive Director to inform members once a year on the actions taken in 2 above;
5. Request the Executive Director to undertake a study on the Assessment of the Sustainability of Tropical Forests as per attached Terms of Reference;

6. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants, one from producer and the other from consumer country to undertake a study and to present a preliminary report at the Twenty-eighth Session;
7. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange for financing the two consultants from the Special Account and urge member countries to contribute to the Special Account for this purpose.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A STUDY ON THE ASSESSMENT OF THE SUSTAINABILITY OF FORESTS

1. Survey existing auditing systems and/or protocols for demonstrating sustainable forest management by drawing on the experiences of the public and private sectors of Member countries, building upon existing studies as much as possible.
2. Identify areas of commonality amongst such systems.
3. Identify essential elements of an auditing systems for demonstrating the sustainable management of tropical forests.
4. Examine and analyse the implications for developing an auditing systems for demonstrating the sustainable management of tropical forests in terms of:
 - human resources and training;
 - cost;
 - development and implementation time;
 - steps required for development; and
 - relationship with ITTO's criteria and indicators.
5. Identify options for further work to improve market opportunities for tropical timber.

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