

TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
1 - 6 December 1997
Yokohama

DECISION 3(XXIII)

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR THE MEASUREMENT OF SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL TROPICAL FORESTS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 5(XXI) regarding the need to elaborate additional examples of the application of the indicators included in the document ACriteria for the Measurement of Sustainable Tropical Forest Management² to make them more usable and facilitate the assessment and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the Year 2000 Objective;

Welcoming the interim report of the Expert Panel on Criteria and Indicators for the Measurement of Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Document ITTC(XXIII)/9];

Recognizing that Members will require some time for review and consideration in capitals of the Expert Panel=s interim report;

Noting that the Council is scheduled to consider the Expert Panel=s final report at its Twenty-fourth Session;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to prepare a comparison of the existing and proposed ITTO criteria and indicators and distribute to Members by 15 January 1998 in order to facilitate members' review of and comment on the interim report;
2. Request Members to submit their comments on the interim report on criteria and indicators to the Executive Director by 15 February 1998;
3. Request the Executive Director to prepare a reference report incorporating the comments from members as a basis for the work of the Expert Panel.
4. Request the Executive Director to convene an Expert Panel comprising three from Consumer countries and three from Producer countries by 15 March 1998 in order to revise the interim report based on comments received;
5. Request the Executive Director to distribute the final report to Members by 15 April 1998 to allow sufficient time for review in capitals prior to the Twenty-fourth Session;
6. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange for financing the Expert Panel from the Special Account and invite Members to contribute to the Special Account for this purpose;
7. Welcome comments on the interim report on Criteria and Indicators from ITTO Observers.