

TWENTIETH SESSION
15-23 May 1996
Manila, Philippines

DECISION 7(XX)

COOPERATION BETWEEN ITTO AND CITES

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decisions 6(XII) and 3(XVI) on measures to improve cooperation between ITTO and CITES, and also Decision 5(XVIII), underlining cooperation between ITTO and the CITES Timber Working Group;

Noting with satisfaction that the First Meeting of the CITES Timber Working Group was held in the United Kingdom from 27 to 29 November 1995;

Aware of the concern expressed by producer member countries regarding the inclusion of *Swietenia macrophylla* in Appendix III of CITES before the issue regarding the inclusion of commercial timber species in the Appendices of CITES could have been considered by its Timber Working Group;

Taking note with appreciation of the ITTO Secretariat report on the First Meeting of the CITES Timber Working Group [document ITTC(XX)/9] and of ITTO participation in its work;

Concerned with initiatives that may adversely affect the status of species traded worldwide;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to ensure the effective participation of ITTO in all meetings of the CITES Timber Working Group, particularly in order to:
 - a) emphasize the importance of commercial tropical timber species to the economies of tropical timber producing countries and the need to avoid obstacles to the international trade in tropical timber;
 - b) provide information on the international trade in commercial tropical timber species and, where available, information regarding the conservation status of these species;
 - c) provide recommendations on practical, technical and procedural solutions to specific problems related to the implementation of CITES for tropical timber species;
 - d) foster a close working relationship between ITTO and CITES with a view to promoting cooperation within their respective mandates on issues affecting the international trade in tropical timber.
 - e) Review the effects of the inclusion of *Swietenia macrophylla* in Appendix III of CITES.
2. Further request the Executive Director to present a report on the proceedings and results of the Second Meeting of the CITES Timber Working Group to be held in Panama from 7 to 11 October 1996 for the consideration of the Council at its Twenty-first Session, if possible.