

What is ITTO?

- ▶ ITTO is an intergovernmental organization promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources
- ▶ ITTO is the only United Nations-treaty organization with its headquarters in Japan
- ▶ ITTO's secretariat of about 35 people is located in Yokohama, which has generously hosted the Organization since its creation in 1986

What ITTO does

ITTO works with its members to:

- ▶ develop policies for sustainable tropical forest use and conservation. These include guidelines, or blueprints, on different aspects of sustainable forest management
- ▶ promote such policies through field projects, studies, training courses and other activities run by ITTO and local agencies in the tropics. Projects aim to implement sustainable forest management, develop sustainable forest industries and increase the trade of timber produced in sustainably managed forests
- ▶ fund projects and activities - worth about US\$270 million since 1987. These funds are provided as grants, not loans, so they don't add to the debts of poor countries
- ▶ maintain and improve relations between forest stakeholders, including indigenous and other local communities, and the equitable sharing of forest benefits
- ▶ collect, analyze and disseminate data on the production and trade of tropical timber

M e m b e r s *

Producing

Bolivia
Brazil
Cambodia
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Colombia
Congo
Côte d'Ivoire
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Ecuador
Fiji
Gabon
Ghana
Guatemala
Guyana
Honduras
India
Indonesia
Liberia
Malaysia
Mexico
Myanmar
Nigeria
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Suriname
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Vanuatu
Venezuela

Consuming

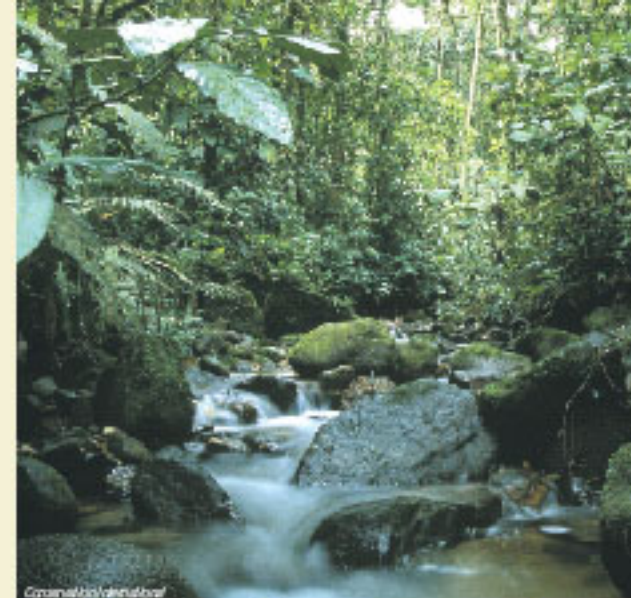
Australia
Canada
China
Egypt
European Union
Austria
Belgium/Luxembourg
Denmark
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Ireland
Italy
Netherlands
Portugal
Spain
Sweden
United Kingdom
Japan
Nepal
New Zealand
Norway
Republic of Korea
Switzerland
United States of America

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To find out more about ITTO's work, go to
www.itto.or.jp

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Keeping tropical forests



Most of us take for granted the essentials of life that tropical forests supply. Yes, they give us timber – but also much more.



Tropical forests give us clean water, hold soils firm (which helps to reduce landslides), take harmful gases out of the air, and provide a safe place for millions of species of plants and animals to live. In addition, the people living in or near tropical forests can turn to this wealth of plants and animals for food, medicine, and materials with which to build their houses. These are all what are called 'forest goods and services'.

If tropical forests give us so many good things, why are they being cleared? In the last few centuries, people have demolished millions of hectares of the world's natural forests, and deforestation, particularly in the tropics, is still going on today. Why do we do this?

The answer is that the land on which natural forests stand is often needed for crops that grow faster than the forests and produce more income. In many places, agriculture simply replaces the forests - despite their many benefits.



The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) believes that natural tropical forests can compete against agriculture - if certain conditions prevail. In particular, people all over the world need to be prepared to pay a fair price for all the important goods and services produced by tropical forests. And the forests must be managed sustainably - meaning that harvesting for timber and other goods and services doesn't damage the forest.

ITTO has adopted a clear strategy to help in the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests. In particular, we:

- ▶ assist tropical countries to manage their forests for the production of timber and other goods and services in a sustainable way - protecting the environment and, at the same time, helping economic and social development
- ▶ work towards increasing the value of tropical timber and other forest goods and services in the international marketplace, so that forest owners and managers obtain more revenue - and will be encouraged to keep their forests instead of clearing them for agriculture
- ▶ assist tropical countries to create networks of protected tropical forest areas
- ▶ help increase awareness about the importance of forests for the goods and services they provide

