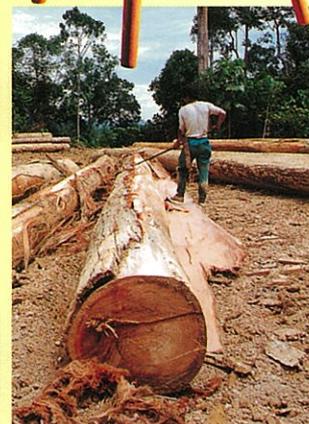


ITTO LIBREVILLE ACTION PLAN



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES BOIS TROPICAUX
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE LAS MADERAS TROPICALES

ITTO Libreville Action Plan 1998 to 2001

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DES BOIS TROPICAUX
ORGANIZACION INTERNACIONAL DE LAS MADERAS TROPICALES**

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FOREWORD

Since ITTO published its first Action Plan, following the Ninth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council in November 1990, the Organization recorded several major milestones in its growth and development and so too has the international debate on tropical forestry. Building on its own experience and, in the light of developments which have taken place in the intervening years, ITTO has re-assessed its priorities. At its Twenty-fourth Session in Gabon in 1998, the Council approved the new ITTO Libreville Action Plan 1998–2001. It is my pleasure to present this document here.

The Earth Summit in Rio in 1992 raised the level of discussion on sustainable development and catalysed a series of initiatives which followed in its wake, amongst which was the establishment of the Commission on Sustainable Development. From this evolved the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests and, more recently, the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests reflecting the concern of the international community for the conservation, management and sustainable development of the world's forests. These, along with many other processes, have focused on the urgent need for greater efforts and enhanced levels of international cooperation.

ITTO has been central to much of this international dialogue and it was against this background that the Organization entered its second phase in 1997 under the new International Tropical Timber Agreement of 1994. The revised objectives of the new Agreement have broadened the scope and outlook of the work of the ITTO, more explicitly covering other forest values in addition to timber trade issues and, notably, incorporating its Year 2000 Objective and the creation of a special fund, the Bali Partnership Fund, to assist in the achievement of this historic commitment. The Libreville Action Plan 1998–2001 enshrines these objectives and outlines a strategy for putting them into practice.

The new Action Plan provides a focus for both the policy and project work of the Organization and re-directs its activities to maximise their impact on successfully achieving ITTO's mandate which is succinctly summarised by the Mission Statement contained in this document.

The Plan is presented in three sections. The first introduces the Organization and elaborates on its establishment, structure and operations; the second recognises a number of cross-cutting strategies - actions which are relevant across the broad spectrum of the Organization's work; and the third identifies specific goals and supporting actions appropriate for each of ITTO's three operational divisions, i.e., Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry. As a whole, the document provides a clear and concise directive from which, it is hoped, those responsible for the development of projects and other programmes will be able to work towards the effective formulation and successful conclusion of such activities.

The Libreville Plan benefits from being based, not just on ideals, but on a wealth of practical experience; to date, ITTO has supported over 300 projects and pre-projects, as well as numerous studies, consultations and workshops apart from the policy dialogue in the ITTO forum. It was compiled with the assistance of individual consultants and two expert panels and was discussed extensively by the Council prior to its finalisation and adoption. We are grateful to all those who contributed.

May the Libreville Action Plan 1998–2001 give member countries, and all those concerned with tropical forests, a sound basis from which to direct their efforts and energy to achieve the conservation, management and sustainable development of the worlds' tropical forests through international cooperation within the framework of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994.

Dr. B.C.Y. Freezailah
Executive Director

6 July 1998

International Tropical Timber Organization

Box 1 - ITTO Mission Statement

The ITTO facilitates discussion, consultation and international co-operation on issues relating to the international trade and utilization of tropical timber and the sustainable management of its resource base.

ITTO Libreville Action Plan 1998 to 2001

1. Introduction

This Action Plan for the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), which replaces the Action Plan of 1990, has been prepared in response to the new International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 (ITTA, 1994), which entered into force on 1 January 1997. The new Action Plan elaborates a strategy for advancing ITTO's objectives, operational activities and statistical work as set forth in the ITTA, 1994. As such, it provides guidance on the overall direction and priorities of the Organization, both in terms of policy initiatives and project activities.

The Action Plan is comprised of three sections. The first section is an introduction, which provides information on the ITTO, on how it operates and on how it was established. The second section outlines the cross cutting functions or strategies of the Organization that will be useful in facilitating progress on the range of ITTO objectives and substantive areas of work. The third section is a set of goals and supporting actions that correspond to the three principal fields in which ITTO works: *Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Reforestation and Forest Management* and *Forest Industry*.

The planning horizon for the Action Plan is 2001. At that time, ITTO members will review the scope of the ITTA, 1994, and consider its extension for an additional period. The Action Plan will be reviewed and revised at a future date in light of the outcome of these discussions.

1.1 About the ITTO

The ITTO is a commodity organization which brings together countries which produce and consume tropical timber to discuss and exchange information and develop policies on all aspects of the world tropical timber economy. The ITTO is headquartered in Yokohama, Japan and at 1 January 1998 had 50 members, including the European Community, which together represent 95 percent of world trade in tropical timber and 75 percent of the world's tropical forests.

The ITTO recognizes that a continuing supply of tropical timber on the world market depends on quality information about the trade and market place, efficient timber production and processing methods and sustainable forest management practices (*Box 1 - Mission Statement*). The ITTA, 1994 sets forth a number of objectives for the Organization intended to promote a long-term, healthy and sustainable international trade in tropical timber (*Box 2 - ITTA, 1994, Article 1*).

The Organization works towards its objectives on a consensus basis through two types of activities: policy development and related project activities. Both the policy and project work focus on and are intended to improve understanding and awareness of key and emerging issues in three principal fields noted above. On the policy side, the Organization supports studies and consultancies, hosts seminars and panels of experts, gathers and disseminates statistics, and develops guidelines and manuals for use by policy makers and field practitioners. For example, the ITTO is well known for its *Year 2000 Objective* (Section 1.4) and its pioneering work on criteria and indicators for sustainable management of tropical forests, as well as its guidelines series on management of tropical forests and its quarterly newsletter.

While ITTO is not a development assistance agency, projects are an important aspect of the Organization's work and a primary means of assisting member countries to implement policy initiatives. Members may submit project proposals to the Council for review and financing

Box 2 - ITTO's Objectives

(as expressed in Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994)

Recognizing the sovereignty of members over their natural resources, as defined in Principle 1 (a) of the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of all Types of Forests, the objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994 are:

- (a) To provide an effective framework for consultation, international cooperation and policy development among all members with regard to all relevant aspects of the world timber economy;
- (b) To provide a forum for consultation to promote non-discriminatory timber trade practices;
- (c) To contribute to the process of sustainable development;
- (d) To enhance the capacity of members to implement a strategy for achieving exports of tropical timber and timber products from sustainably managed sources by the year 2000;
- (e) To promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainable sources by improving the structural conditions in international markets, by taking into account, on the one hand, a long-term increase in consumption and continuity of supplies, and, on the other, prices which reflect the costs of sustainable forest management and which are remunerative and equitable for members, and the improvement of market access;
- (f) To promote and support research and development with a view to improving forest management and efficiency of wood utilization as well as increasing the capacity to conserve and enhance other forest values in timber producing tropical forests;
- (g) To develop and contribute towards mechanisms for the provision of new and additional financial resources and expertise needed to enhance the capacity of producing members to attain the objectives of this Agreement;
- (h) To improve market intelligence with a view to ensuring greater transparency in the international timber market, including the gathering, compilation, and dissemination of trade related data, including data related to species being traded;
- (I) To promote increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources in producing member countries with a view to promoting their industrialization and thereby increasing their employment opportunities and export earnings;
- (j) To encourage members to support and develop industrial tropical timber reforestation and forest management activities as well as rehabilitation of degraded forest land, with due regard for the interests of local communities dependent on forest resources;
- (k) To improve marketing and distribution of tropical timber exports from sustainably managed sources;
- (l) To encourage members to develop national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of timber producing forests and their genetic resources and at maintaining the ecological balance in the regions concerned, in the context of tropical timber trade;
- (m) To promote the access to, and transfer of, technologies and technical cooperation to implement the objectives of this Agreement, including on concessional and preferential terms and conditions, as mutually agreed; and
- (n) To encourage information-sharing on the international timber market.

consideration consistent with an agreed project cycle. Examples include pilot and demonstration projects, human resource development projects, and research and development projects. All projects are funded by voluntary contributions from member countries. Since it became operational in 1987, the ITTO has funded [number] projects for a total cost of US\$ [amount] nearly all of which has been provided by member countries. The Organization also supports a fellowship programme.

The Organization generally meets twice a year. Meetings are held at the headquarters in Yokohama unless the Council decides otherwise. Intergovernmental organizations, such as the FAO, UNEP, World Bank and African Timber Organization, are welcomed as observers, as are representatives of industry and trade associations, environmental organizations, indigenous groups and other interested non-government parties.

1.2 Governance

(Box 3 – Organizational Structure and Functions)

The governing body of the ITTO is the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC), which includes all members. Like other UNCTAD based commodity organizations, ITTO has two categories of membership: *Producer* and *Consumer* countries. Annual contributions and votes are distributed equally between the two groups, which are called "Caucuses." Within each caucus, individual member's dues and votes are calculated based on market share and in the case of producers the extent of tropical forests within the country.

The Council is supported by four committees, which are open to all members and provide advice and assistance to the Council on issues for consideration and decision. Three of the committees deal with the Organization's three major areas of policy and project work: *Economic Information and Market Intelligence*, *Reforestation and Forest Management* and *Forest Industry*. These committees are supported by an Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of Projects and Pre-Projects, which reviews project proposals for technical merit and relevance to ITTO objectives. The fourth committee, on *Finance and Administration* advises the Council on matters related to the budget and other funding and administrative issues concerning the management of the Organization.

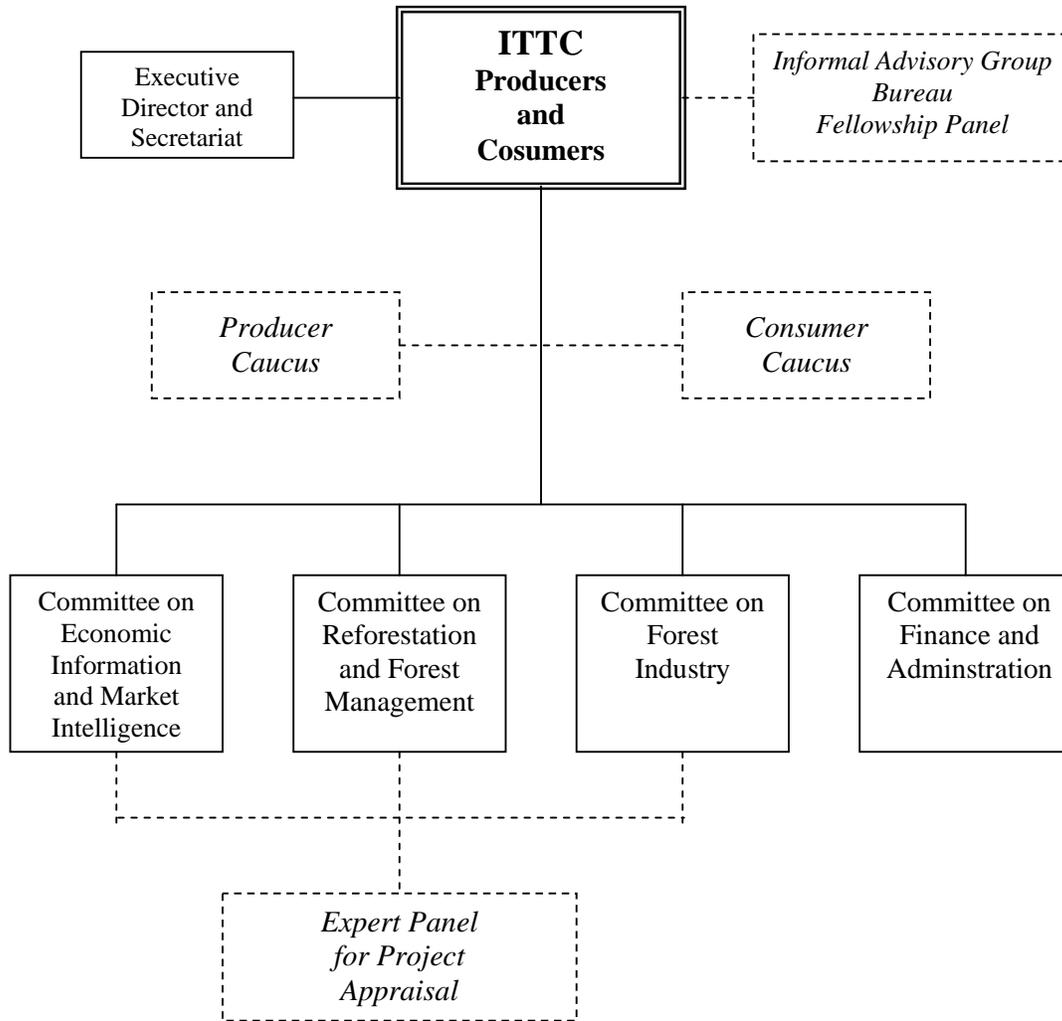
The Council and Committees are supported by a small Secretariat headed by the Executive Director who is responsible for the day to day running and administration of the Organization and for preparations for meetings.

1.3 International Tropical Timber Agreement

The ITTO was first established by the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), 1983, which was negotiated with a limited life span under the auspices of UNCTAD and came into force in 1985. The Organization became operational in 1987. Unlike some other commodity agreements, the ITTA has no price regulation mechanisms or market intervention provisions.

The successor agreement to the ITTA, 1983 was negotiated in 1994 and came into force on 1 January 1997. The new agreement continues to focus on the world tropical timber economy. In addition, it contains broader provisions for information sharing, including non-tropical timber trade data, allows for consideration of non-tropical timber issues as they relate to tropical timber.

Box 3 - ITTO Structure and Functions



Solid lines show functions derived from ITTA, 1994

Dotted lines show informal functions decided by Council as at May 1998

It explicitly states that the agreement should not form a basis for trade discrimination against tropical timber.

The agreement gives new emphasis to the policy work of the ITTO. It enshrines the *Year 2000 Objective* and establishes the *Bali Partnership Fund* to assist producing member countries to sustainably manage their tropical timber producing forests. It also notes the formal statement of commitment made by 25 consuming countries and the European Community to the goal of sustainably managing their respective forests by 2000, which was issued in Geneva on 21 January 1994 at the conclusion of negotiations on the successor agreement.

1.4 ITTO Year 2000 Objective

In June 1991, the Council committed itself by Decision 3(X) to what is now known as the *Year 2000 Objective*, which is the goal of having all tropical timber entering international trade come from sustainably managed sources by 2000. Since then, the Council has approved policy studies and project financing for a number of activities to help member countries move toward this Objective.

In 1993, members identified four key areas for action if progress was to be made towards sustainable forest management:

- Security of forest resources and prevention of unplanned deforestation;
- Production of the optimal mix of goods and services;
- Improvement of the utilization of the resource to give the greatest possible social benefit;
- Improvement of the social and political environment concerning forest management.

In 1995, aware of the short time remaining until 2000 and the need for a practical approach, the Council by Decision 8(XX) identified seven priority actions by countries that are essential for progress toward the *Year 2000 Objective* in the short-term. These are to:

- Adopt a forest policy and apply legislation;
- Secure the permanent forest estate;
- Apply reduced impact logging;
- Train the work force, including supervisors, in reduced impact logging;
- Limit timber harvest to the sustained yield capacity;
- Raise public awareness that timber harvesting can be consistent with the sustainability of tropical forests;
- Focus forest research on the analysis and use of existing data and knowledge.

Neither plantation establishment nor detailed forest inventory was included in the list of priority actions since, whilst they are both essential components of sustainable forest management, both

require considerable investment and neither could contribute significantly to achievement of the *Year 2000 Objective*, given the short time frame.

Recognizing the varying capacity of producer member countries to undertake these priority actions, the Council in 1997 approved operation of a fund, known as the *Bali Partnership Fund*, to assist producer country efforts to implement priority actions. Periodic review of progress in implementing the ITTO Action Plan will help the Organization monitor and evaluate progress toward the Year 2000 Objective, and progress in managing tropical timber producing forests beyond 2000.

2. Cross Cutting Strategies

There are a number of Actions that ITTO will undertake to facilitate progress in all three areas of its substantive work on *Economic Information and Market Intelligence*, *Reforestation and Forest Management* and *Forest Industry*. These actions are considered to be "cross cutting strategies" of the Organization and constitute an important component of the Action Plan. Specifically, the ITTO will:

- Actively co-operate, co-ordinate and collaborate with international organizations and other international forums which undertake activities relevant to ITTO's objectives, operational activities and statistical work, with a view to sharing expertise, reducing duplication, enhancing complementarity and harmonizing activities;
- Encourage the participation of non-government stakeholders, including industry and trade associations, environmental organizations and indigenous groups, in the activities of the Organization, with a view to promoting transparency and dialogue;
- Enhance its public relations, awareness and education activities in order to better inform people about the purpose and activities of the Organization;
- Support human resource development, including training and extension at all levels, through projects and the ITTO Fellowship Programme;
- Support the sharing of information, knowledge and technology to improve sustainable forest management, product processing, utilization and understanding of the market place as related to ITTO's priorities;
- Encourage investment and joint ventures in the forest sector, including the re-investment of forest generated revenues;
- Mobilize financial resources to support project proposals submitted by members;
- Support demonstration and pilot projects in all areas of its substantive work, especially on a regional basis;
- Support research and development studies and projects to improve understanding of the market place, efficient product processing, industrial utilization and better forest management;
- Formulate and test guidelines, criteria and indicators related to the Organization's work in the field of forest management and other areas as appropriate;
- Undertake special studies on emerging issues of relevance to the world tropical timber economy.

3. *Goals and Actions*

This section of the Action Plan identifies specific goals and supporting actions for the three areas of ITTO's substantive work: *Economic Information and Market Intelligence*, *Reforestation and Forest Management* and *Forest Industry*. These goals and actions will guide the relevant ITTO committees in making policy and project recommendations to the Council, and provide a frame of reference for the Council itself in considering issues and in taking decisions on policy initiatives and on project activities.

Each year, Council develops a Programme of Work, which prioritizes and allocates resources for specific activities under the Actions. Progress with this Programme of Work is monitored and reviewed as part of the iterative process of formulating the programme for the following year.

The Actions indicated as relevant to member countries provide an overall listing from which individual members will decide on those that are relevant to them. There are significant differences among the members at the regional and national levels. These differences are political, developmental, economic, cultural and ecological as well as in the extent to which forestry and timber are important in the economy. ITTO can assist members in making progress through project and pre-project funding.

In the Goals that follow (*Box 4*), the wording is drawn from ITTA, 1994 to emphasize the commitment to achieving the objectives contained therein.

Box 4 – Action Plan Goals

Economic Information and Market Intelligence

Goal 1: Improve transparency of the international timber market.

Goal 2: Improve marketing and distribution of tropical timber exports from sustainably managed sources.

Goal 3: Improve market access for tropical timber exports from sustainably managed sources.

Reforestation and Forest Management

Goal 1: Support activities to secure the tropical timber resource base.

Goal 2: Improve the tropical timber resource base.

Goal 3: Enhance technical, financial and human capacities to manage the tropical timber resource base.

Forest Industry

Goal 1: Promote increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources.

Goal 2: Improve marketing and standardization of tropical timber exports.

Goal 3: Improve efficiency of processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources.

3.1 Economic Information and Market Intelligence

In the field of Economic Information and Market Intelligence, ITTO is concerned with improving the flow of tropical timber from producers to consumers. The three goals and supporting actions stated below all lead towards this. Better market transparency and improved market intelligence are vital for the expansion and diversification of international trade in timber from sustainably managed tropical forests. Policy development and planning require economic data to recognize changes in consumer demand, trade patterns, and types of products traded. Analysis of market trends is needed to provide intelligence on new markets for tropical timber products and their competitiveness in the global market with respect to timber and non-timber substitutes. Trade expansion also depends on consumer attitudes towards tropical timber products and reducing barriers to trade.

Goal 1: Improve transparency of the international timber market.

This goal relates to objectives (h) and (n) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Undertake an Annual Review and Assessment of the World Timber Situation.
2. Streamline the collection and dissemination of statistical data.
3. Co-operate with international organizations and other sources to improve the availability of trade and economic data relevant to the global timber market and avoid duplication and overlap.
4. Monitor and analyse statistical data and other relevant information, including any information on undocumented trade.
5. Disseminate widely ITTO data on tropical timber production and trade to interested parties in a timely fashion, using technical publications, electronic on-line access and other media.
6. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Develop and improve national statistical gathering, reporting and disseminating systems;
 - Develop manpower skills through appropriate approaches, including the ITTO Fellowship Programme;
 - Co-operate with private sector organizations in gathering data;
 - Provide relevant data, in as complete a form as possible.

Goal 2: Improve marketing and distribution of tropical timber exports from sustainably managed sources.

This goal relates to objectives (a), (e) and (k) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Organize Annual Market Discussions on the world tropical timber trade.
2. Undertake study of the medium and long-term outlook for the tropical timber market in cooperation with the FAO, Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) and private sector organizations.
3. Disseminate the results of outlook studies and information on policy-oriented studies in ITTO technical publications, with special attention to new electronic means of distribution.
4. Compile and disseminate information on consumer preferences with regard to currently traded tropical timber species.
5. Identify new markets for lesser-used and lesser-known species, and determine the availability of those species.
6. Promote wider use of tropical timber in high-value products, such as engineered products.
7. Undertake regular studies of the competitiveness of tropical timber and tropical timber products with timber and non-timber substitutes.
8. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Participate in Annual Market Discussions, provide inputs (*e.g.* country market statements) and secure active and full participation of experts involved in the timber trade and industry;
 - Provide inputs to ITTO market outlook studies for individual countries;
 - Compile and disseminate information on consumer preferences with regard to currently traded species;
 - Identify new markets for their lesser-used and lesser-known species, and determine the availability of those species;
 - Undertake research into wood properties and end use requirements;
 - Promote a wider use of their tropical timber in high-value products, such as engineered products;
 - Establish and maintain economic and fiscal policies that are conducive to the competitiveness of the tropical timber industry and trade.

Goal 3: Improve market access for tropical timber exports from sustainably managed sources.

This goal relates to objectives (a), (b), (e) and (n) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Raise political and public awareness that timber harvesting can be consistent with the sustainability of tropical forests, using, *e.g.* printed material, the mass media and ITTO missions to specific member countries.
2. Provide a forum for discussions on trade barriers and other obstacles to the tropical timber trade and measures to improve market access.
3. Analyse and share the experience of member countries in order to evaluate measures to enhance the promotion of tropical timber exports from sustainably managed forests.
4. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Develop public awareness that timber harvesting can be consistent with the sustainability of tropical forests and that trade with tropical timber produced from sustainably managed forests is an important tool in forest conservation;
 - Identify trade barriers and other obstacles to the tropical timber trade and propose measures to improve market access;
 - Monitor developments that may further market access.

3.2 Reforestation and Forest Management

In the field of Reforestation and Forest Management, ITTO is concerned with the management and conservation of the resource base for tropical timber. Currently, much tropical timber originates from natural, primary forests and urgent attention should be given to securing their extent, biological health and productive potential and to their sound management. Rehabilitation of secondary forests, and creation of ecologically and socially sound timber plantations, will be increasingly important. It should be noted, however, that the balance amongst the types of resource base varies between countries and action programmes at the national level need to be country-specific.

Goal 1: Support activities to secure the tropical timber resource base.

This goal relates to objectives (c), (d) and (l) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Review current and potential productivity of major, tropical forest types.
2. Establish guidelines for sustainable forest management.
3. Support networking of, and exchange of information on, protected areas, in collaboration and co-operation with appropriate international organizations.
4. Raise political and public awareness of the fact that forestry is an economically, socially and environmentally viable land use practice.
5. Contribute appropriately to national and international efforts in the area of prevention and management of forest fire in relation to tropical timber.
6. Review the current situation regarding any undocumented forestry activities relating to the objectives of the Organization.
7. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Develop, adopt and apply forest policy and legislation to secure the forest resource base;
 - Identify and prevent irregular forestry activities;
 - Establish and secure forests (*e.g.* a Permanent Forest Estate) likely to remain under forest cover in the long-term, including:
 - securing the production forest area (*e.g.* legal land status, long-term concessions);
 - classifying a sufficient proportion of totally protected area for conservation purposes (including tree species conservation, bio-diversity conservation and watershed protection);
 - Establish and manage forests for multiple-use in close co-operation with local forest owners and communities living in forest areas;

- Review the relationship between forestry, agriculture and other land-uses in the context of developing land-use plans;
- Formulate and establish national guidelines for forest utilization that both secure the resource base and ensure local stakeholders rights;
- Undertake activities in the area of prevention and management of forest fire in relation to tropical timber.

Goal 2: Improve the tropical timber resource base.

This goal relates to objectives (c), (d) and (f) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Develop the concept of forest biological health and sustainable production potential, particularly at forest stand and landscape levels, and incorporate this in guidelines for forest management plans.
2. Develop and refine guidelines on reduced-impact logging (RIL) in consultation with organizations such as CIFOR (Centre for International Forestry Research) and FAO.
3. Compile and publish guidelines for the rehabilitation of degraded forests and forest land, including guidance on the management of secondary forests.
4. Facilitate the development, testing and implementation of regional and national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in member countries.
5. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Determine the sustained yield capacity of each forest management unit, through the application of appropriate resource assessment methods, and incorporate this into forest management plans;
 - Improve the formulation and implementation of forest management plans, which limit harvesting to the sustained yield capacity;
 - Apply guidelines on reduced-impact-logging in order to minimize the damage done by timber harvesting to the physical and social environment and the forest ecosystem;
 - Develop, test and refine national criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management;
 - Expand the productive capacity of natural forests through intensified silvicultural practices such as better utilization of lesser-used species, promotion of Non-Timber Forest Products, guided natural regeneration, enrichment planting and reforestation;
 - Intensify and promote research and development activities in the rehabilitation of degraded forests and forest land, mixed timber tree plantations and secondary forest management;

- Identify those areas where forest rehabilitation is feasible and develop technical options which include analysis of the social, economic and environmental implications of the alternatives.

Goal 3: Enhance technical, financial and human capacities to manage the tropical timber resource base.

This goal relates to objectives (c), (f), (g), (j) and m of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Promote access to, and transfer of, technologies and encourage technical cooperation for sustainable forest management, forest restoration and reforestation.
2. Enhance networking and technology transfers amongst forest education centres, forest owners and managers, in the fields of natural forest management, harvesting and forest restoration.
3. Design and conduct regional training events to enhance technical and human capabilities to manage the resource base.
4. Facilitate exchange of information and experience on natural forest management, forest restoration and timber plantations amongst member countries, Non-Governmental Organizations and industries.
5. Disseminate results and lessons learned from ITTO projects and activities to interested member countries, Non-Governmental Organizations and industries.
6. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Test and enhance collaborative models of forest management for tropical production forests;
 - Promote and support research in forest dynamics (growth and yield studies) in different forest types and under various management schemes;
 - Train timber company managers and the workforce in RIL, including: proper planning of skid trails and access roads; selection and use of appropriate technologies and harvesting methods; directional felling; use of local knowledge related to forest resources;
 - Intensify training of forestry personnel and other stakeholders in silviculture and resource assessment and in the management of both natural forests and timber plantations;
 - Allocate adequate numbers of trained people to implement effectively sustainable forest management;
 - Analyse and apply existing data and knowledge in forestry, in order to ascertain what is, or can be made, relevant to the operational knowledge of forest ecosystem behaviour and to incorporate that information into preliminary management prescriptions.

3.3 Forest Industry

In the field of Forest Industry, ITTO aims at promoting industrialization of producer member countries and thereby increasing their employment opportunities and export earnings. This is reflected in the goals stated below together with the actions necessary for their achievement. Currently, tropical timber is mostly exported in the form of logs, sawnwood or plywood, hence development work focusing on the promotion of increased and further processing and on manufacturing and exports of higher added-value products is needed.

Goal 1: Promote increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources.

This goal relates to objectives (c), (d), (f), (i), (k), and (m) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Increase awareness of investment opportunities to encourage public and private investment.
2. Commission and publish analytical studies that identify critical knowledge and information gaps.
3. Assist in the promotion and transfer of new and/or improved techniques and technologies.
4. Improve access to relevant information in ITTO publications, project findings, relevant training opportunities and develop a tropical timber database.
5. Assist human resource development and institutional strengthening by designing and conducting regional and international events such as specialist workshops and seminars and by the provision of fellowships.
6. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Promote investment in timber processing industry by taking steps to:
 - Recognize the importance of a sound balance between sustainable timber production and the processing capacity of the connected industry;
 - Make investment in forest industry attractive to private capital;
 - Clarify the benefits of funding downstream processing for high value, internationally competitive products;
 - Establish joint ventures to make optimal use of both public and private financial resources;
 - Formulate research and development proposals which assist with the piloting and commercialization of new processing and manufacturing technologies;
 - Organize workshops/seminars on the use of new and/or improved techniques, technology

and the development, testing and adoption of guidelines;

- Undertake sector wide training needs analysis; development of training strategies, training facilities and course curricula; preparation of training manuals and delivery of training courses.

Goal 2: Improve marketing and standardization of tropical timber exports.

This goal relates to objectives (c), (f), (d) and (k) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Monitor the impact of standards and review the need for action on harmonization in concert with relevant national and international bodies.
2. Assist with Human Resource Development and institutional strengthening through specialist workshops and seminars and the provision of fellowships.
3. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:
 - Improve institutional efficiency and effectiveness through sector wide training needs analysis; development of training strategies, training facilities and course curricula; preparation of training manuals and delivery of training courses;
 - Prepare and implement Research and Development projects covering marketing trials, marketing methods and opportunities;
 - Participate in international standards activities related to forest products.

Goal 3: Improve efficiency of processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources.

This goal relates to objectives (d), (f), (i) and (m) of Article 1 of the ITTA, 1994.

Actions

1. Develop, publish and disseminate guidelines on increasing utilization efficiency and the reduction of losses and waste throughout the production chain.
2. Facilitate and encourage development of demonstrations, which address increased efficiency in the widest sense.
3. Commission and publish analytical studies that identify critical knowledge and information gaps as a precursor to research and development activities on improved efficiency at all stages.
4. Assist in the promotion, transfer and adoption of new and/or improved techniques and technologies through publications and other media, workshops, seminars and fellowships.
5. Encourage and assist Members, as appropriate, to:

- Develop, test and adopt regional and national guidelines that assist in the efficient conversion of raw material and help minimize waste and losses at all stages;
- Create and publicize demonstration projects on, for example: fully integrated industries based upon sustainable forest management; efficient and socially sound community based forest industries; efficient low impact logging which is consistent with sustainable forest management whilst ensuring continuity of log supplies;
- Formulate research and development proposals that assist with the piloting and commercialization of improved and/or innovative utilization methodologies, including reduction of losses and increased use of residues, developed from laboratory based studies on improved utilization;
- Undertake sector wide training needs analysis; development of training strategies, training facilities and course curricula; preparation of training manuals and delivery of training events.

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