



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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Yokohama, Japan

DECISION 6(XXXIII)

PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREST FIRE

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Concerned about the disastrous and frequent forest fires in South-East Asia and other tropical regions and the threats to human health caused by widespread haze associated with tropical forest fires;

Recalling the Yokohama Action Plan, Goal 2, Action 7, which calls for ITTO to contribute appropriately to national and international efforts in the area of prevention and management of fire in relation to tropical timber-producing forests;

Further recalling the recommendations of the FAO/ITTO International Expert Meeting on Forest Fire Management, which took place in Rome on 7-9 March 2001;

Recognizing the importance of the application of the ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forest by Member countries;

Acknowledging the invitation of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) for ITTO and its Members to participate in its activities for sharing fire-related information and data;

Further acknowledging the objectives of the Working Group on Wildland Fire of the UN-ISDR Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, calling for inter-institutional cooperation at the global level to reduce the negative impact of wildland fires on the environment and humanity;

Noting the recommendations made by forest fire experts during the Side-Event on "ITTO's Role in Forest Fire Management" at the XXXII Council Session in Bali;

Further noting the request of the NSW Rural Fire Service and the GFMC for ITTO to co-sponsor in 2003 the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference and Summit;

Wishing to strengthen ITTO's support to Member Countries in their efforts to prevent, manage and monitor forest fires;

Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director, upon request, to make available to as many as eight producer Member Countries experiencing forest fire problems, the services of forest fire experts to assist them in evaluating the country's forest fire prevention and management situation, to identify pragmatic strategies and actions and, as appropriate, to develop pre-project or project proposals for their implementation. The Terms of Reference for these activities are contained in the Annex to this Decision;

2. Co-sponsor the 3rd International Wildland Fire Conference and Summit in Sydney in October 2003, and authorize the Executive Director to provide, upon request, financial assistance to producer Member Countries experiencing forest fire problems, to participate in the Conference and Summit;
3. Encourage Member Countries to collaborate and share information with the GFMC and request the Executive Director to ensure that relevant information about ITTO's fire-related work is made available to the GFMC on an ongoing basis; and
4. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member Countries to meet the financial requirements of this decision, not exceeding US\$277,500.00. If sufficient contributions are not received by 30 April 2003, the Executive Director is requested to use funds from the Sub-Account B of the Bali Partnership Fund.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for Assistance to Member Countries in Forest Fire Prevention and Management

In organizing assistance to Member Countries the Executive Director shall:

1. identify International Forest Fire Experts to carry out activities in accordance with this Decision in cooperation with local consultants;
2. facilitate cooperation between Experts, the relevant authorities and other stakeholders;
3. take into account past experiences as well as on-going activities related to Forest Fire management in the country concerned; and
4. ensure that the cost of each individual programme of assistance does not exceed US\$25,000.00.

Annex 2

Budget

Budget Item	Total (US\$)
1. Assistance to eight Producer Countries (International + local consultant, incl. DSA)	200,000
ITTO Program support (11%)	22,000
SUBTOTAL	222,000
2. Co-sponsorship of 3 rd International Wildland Fire Conference	50,000
ITTO Program Support (11%)	5,500
SUBTOTAL	55,500
TOTAL	277,500

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