



ITTO

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL
TIMBER COUNCIL**

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THIRTY-SECOND SESSION
13 - 18 May 2002
Bali, Indonesia

DECISION 9(XXXII)

FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT IN AFRICA

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recognizing the importance of Africa's forests and the economic, environmental and social significance of the timber trade in many countries on the African Continent;

Recalling ITTO's extensive work already implemented through many projects in Africa;

Aware of the upcoming preparatory meeting and Ministerial Conference on Forest Law Enforcement to be held in Africa in 2002/2003;

Considering the need for improving the collection and management of data on tropical forest;

Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to participate in the preparatory meeting and Ministerial Conference in Africa on Forest Law Enforcement in 2002/2003;
2. Request the Executive Director to report to the Council on the agreements reached in the Ministerial Conference on Forest Law Enforcement and propose actions which ITTO could take within its mandate;
3. Undertake a data collection initiative on the forests of the Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, *aimed at* improving forest concession management and ensuring the conservation of protected areas. In partnership with the respective governments of the countries concerned and Global Forest Watch, this initiative will identify the relevant information data required and develop data capturing and processing programs. This mutually beneficial program will require the involvement of various stakeholders within the forest sector. To implement this initiative, the Executive Director is requested to work with Global Forest Watch and all three participant countries to develop a work program which will be submitted to the thirty-third session of the Council. The budget to undertake this program will not exceed US\$50,000.00; and
4. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions not exceeding US\$50,000.00 from Members countries to meet the financial requirements of these activities.

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