



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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

DECISION 10(XXXII)

PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN THE CONGO BASIN

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recognizing the value 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;

Further recalling Decision 7(XXIV) concerning the cooperation between the ITTO and the African Timber Organization (ATO) and resulting actions;

Recalling the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006 relating to the promotion and sustainable management of tropical forest resources;

Recalling the Yaoundé Declaration in which Heads of State of six African countries committed to work toward the concerted management of Congo Basin forests as supported by the Convergence Plan and the Priority Action Plan;

Noting the contributions and recommendations of recent ITTO Missions in the region, including the Mission in Support of the Government of Congo and Decision 11(XXX) establishing the technical mission for "Strengthening Sustainable Forest Management in Central African Countries (Congo Basin)";

Acknowledging the importance of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and ITTO's commitment to reconcile the trade in tropical timber, the promotion of sustainable development and the conservation of tropical forest environments;

Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to facilitate ITTO's participation in the "Type II Partnership/Initiative" for the Congo Basin toward the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the Congo Basin Initiative (CBI) and engage alongside other partners in concrete field-level actions. ITTO's involvement in this initiative will include, inter alia, offering inputs to relevant actions referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4. ITTO's contribution to the preparatory meeting for the Congo Basin Initiative will not exceed US\$50,000.00;
2. Request the Executive Director to report to the sessions of the Council on any agreements reached under the "Congo Basin Initiative" and recommend actions which ITTO could take within its mandate;
3. Request the Executive Director to organize a workshop to develop a regional applied research program and identify appropriate implementation approaches for this program through existing entities, initiatives and networks. This program will be especially designed to ensure that existing gaps between research and field application are bridged. The workshop will identify research activities focusing on social, economic and environmental aspects of tropical forest management and trade. The working language of the workshop will be French and the workshop will be open to participants from other African countries. The Workshop will also draw on and extend existing initiatives and work by organizations such as CIFOR, CIRAD, TROPENBOS,

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FAO, IUFRO and UNDP. The outputs of the workshop, including options for future actions, will be submitted to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council for consideration and review. To assist in the preparation of the workshop, the Executive Director is requested to prepare a detailed agenda for the workshop with an associated budget not exceeding US\$150,000.00;

4. Contribute to the development of a regional strategy aimed at improving the management of forest concessions based on ITTO guidelines. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of industrial timber logging on local communities and transboundary sites identified as high priorities for biological diversity conservation. For this purpose, the following actions will be undertaken;
 - a. A review and assessment of experiences in forest management partnerships among the various relevant stakeholders taking into consideration demonstration activities already funded by ITTO in the region and other activities undertaken by the WCS, the French Development Agency (*Agence Française du Développement*) and WWF. The Executive Director will submit terms of reference and a budget for this action;
 - b. Providing support to the Regional Network of Forestry Training Institutions (*Réseau Régional des Instituts de Formation Forestière*) by convening a training workshop for trainers in Forest Management, focusing on the environmental and social components of forest concession management. The budget for this workshop will not exceed US\$52,000.00;
5. Authorize the Executive Director to seek from Member countries voluntary contributions not exceeding US\$252,000.00 to finance these activities.

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