



ITTO

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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THIRTIETH SESSION
28 May – 2 June 2001
Yaoundé, Cameroon

DECISION 10(XXX) CERTIFICATION

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of Members to the process of advancing ITTO Objective 2000;

Recognizing that ITTO has developed and adopted Manuals, Guidelines and Reporting Systems for Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management;

Recognizing the IPF and IFF conclusions and proposals for action related to certification;

Recognizing forest certification as an important voluntary market-based tool to encourage and create incentives for sustainable forest management;

Underscoring that certification schemes should be voluntary, non-discriminatory, transparent and market-oriented;

Recognizing the many uncertainties surrounding both positive and negative aspects of certification, including its potential impact on trade;

Recognizing the need for further clarification on the impact of certification on sustainable forest management and trade as well as its relationship to criteria and indicators processes;

Recognizing the potential role of certification for ITTO Members in improving market transparency, taking into account the role of the private sector, and in helping to promote responsible producer and consumer choices in supply and demand for forest products;

Noting the growing demand in the market for certified timber and the need in Member countries for assistance in implementing ITTO's Criteria and Indicators, and in building capacity and institutional strengthening to implement auditing systems to assess sustainable forest management, which may support certification schemes;

Noting the proliferation of certification systems in the market place and the need to facilitate Members' understanding of these various schemes;

Recognizing that while ITTO's Criteria and Indicators were developed to assess progress towards sustainable forest management, performance standards will be required for the purposes of certification;

Recognizing the role of ITTO in promoting market access as provided for in the objectives of the ITTA, 1994, and the Libreville Action Plan;

Noting the need for ITTO as a commodity organization to pro-actively collaborate with other relevant bodies on certification;

Recognizing that ITTO as an international organization should not endorse, or be perceived to endorse, any particular certification approach or scheme, including any accompanying standards developed for the purpose of certification;

Appreciating the desire of producer countries to implement voluntary certification schemes as a means to enhancing market access and generating sufficient income to finance sustainable forest management;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to facilitate discussions between ITTO Members and relevant interested parties on the principles, frameworks and elements of certification schemes;
2. Encourage producer Member countries to submit project proposals to implement ITTO's Criteria and Indicators and build capacity for internal auditing of sustainable forest management;
3. Request the Executive Director to assist Member countries to build capacity to engage in voluntary certification to enhance market acceptance of tropical timber and tropical timber products;
4. Authorize the Executive Director to convene a workshop prior to the Thirty-second Session with broad based participation on progress being made regarding the comparability and equivalence of certification schemes;
5. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants, one from producer and the other from consumer country to develop in consultations with relevant interested parties a program for the workshop and prepare an overview paper for consideration at the workshop with the attached terms of reference; and
6. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member countries to meet the financial requirements of this decision, not exceeding US\$172,380.00. If sufficient contributions are not received by 31 October 2001, the Executive Director is requested to use funds from the Sub-Account B of the Bali Partnership Fund.

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKSHOP

The consultants will develop in consultation with the Executive Director and relevant interested parties a program for the workshop, taking into account the outcome of the GTZ/FAO/ITTO meeting which took place in February 2001, in Rome, and other relevant developments in the area of certification. The purpose of the workshop shall be:

- to invite Member countries and relevant interested parties to participate in a discussion of the principles, frameworks, and elements of certification schemes;
- to identify principles and critical elements relevant to the development of standards for certification;
- to review progress being made towards comparability and equivalence of certification schemes;
- to obtain the perspective of buyers groups towards certification; and
- to recommend relevant actions for ITTO and its Members

The duration of the workshop should be two days.

The workshop attendees should include:

- Member countries;
- relevant international organizations;
- representatives of certification schemes;
- relevant private sector groups;
- relevant Non-governmental organizations; and
- buyers groups

Overview Paper

The consultants will prepare an overview paper regarding the comparability and equivalence of certification schemes, including identifying principles and critical elements necessary for the development of standards for certification. The consultants will take into account recent international efforts and initiatives on mutual recognition.

ITTO Workshop on Certification and Certification Schemes

(A) Moderator	
(1) Moderator's Travel Expense (1 at US\$5,000)	5000
(2) DSA (US\$200x1x4 days)	800
(B) Speakers	
(1) Speakers' Travel Expense (8 at US\$5,000 each)	40000
(2) DSA (US\$200x8x4 days)	6400
(C) Participants	
(1) Participants' Travel Expense (3 per region at US\$5,000 each)	45000
(2) DSA (US\$200x9x4 days)	7200
(D) Secretariat Support	
(1) Secretariat Travel Expense (2 at US\$5,000 each)	10000
(2) DSA (US\$200x2x4 days)	1600
(E) Meeting Logistics	10000
(F) Documentation, Translation and Dissemination of Reports	10000
(G) Consultancy	10000
(H) Contingencies	10000
Sub-Total	156000
ITTO Programme Support Cost	16380
Grand Total	172380

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