



**ITTO**

**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL  
TIMBER COUNCIL**

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THIRTIETH SESSION  
28 May – 2 June  
Yaoundé, Cameroon

**DECISION 12(XXX)**

**ITEM TO REVISIT AT THE THIRTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE COUNCIL**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Noting the time constraint and the substantive work load of the Council at its Thirtieth Session;

Acknowledging the intensive deliberations on the issues which took place during this Council Session;

Decides to continue consideration of the following draft decision contained in the Annex, at its Thirty-first Session;

Guidelines for Establishing Auditing Systems for ITTO's Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management.

**DRAFT DECISION \*\*(XXX)**

**GUIDELINES FOR ESTABLISHING AUDITING SYSTEMS FOR ITTO'S CRITERIA AND INDICATORS  
FOR SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of Members to achieve ITTO's Year 2000 Objective and the references to lack of capacity related to auditing systems for sustainable forest management in the "Review of Progress Towards the Year 2000 Objective" by Prof. Duncan Poore and Mr. Thang Hooi Chiew (Document ITTC (XXVIII)/9);

Recognizing the Expert Panel Report on the Development of a Framework for an Auditing System for ITTO's Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (Decision 5(XXVIII)) and its recommendations for revisions to the draft working documents prepared by consultants pursuant to Decision 5(XXVIII);

Recognizing the growing market for certified timber and the need to promote and assist initiatives by members to implement ITTO's Criteria and Indicators and build capacity to audit and assess sustainable forest management;

Recognizing the importance of assisting countries to generate the capacity and resources to help implement national policies that promote sustainable forest management;

Reaffirming the commitment of members to achieve ITTO's Year 2000 Objective through international collaboration and assistance;

Aware of the need to provide guidance on various aspects of forest auditing as appropriate;

Decides to:

- 1) Develop and publish guidelines that provide the essential elements for a framework of adequate auditing systems for sustainable forest management;
- 2) Authorize the Executive Director to engage the two consultants who had prepared the Working Document authorized by Decision 5(XXVIII) to revise that Working Document to take into account the Report of the Expert Panel convened pursuant to Decision 5(XXVIII) and to circulate the revised working document to a broad range of stakeholders for their review and comment and prepare a draft final report taking into account the comments received;
- 3) Request the Executive Director to convene an Expert Panel comprised of three producer and three consumer member countries and one representative each from conservation non-governmental and timber trade and industry organizations to consider the draft final Consultants' report, including the comments received on it by stakeholders and present its findings at the Thirty First Session of Council; and
- 4) Authorize the Executive Director to arrange for financing the consultancy to prepare the Working Document, circulate it to potential stakeholders and convene the Expert Panel from the Special Account/Bali Partnership Fund.

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