



TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
20-28 May 1998
Libreville, Gabon

DECISION 3(XXIV)

CRITERIA AND INDICATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL TROPICAL FORESTS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 5(XXI) regarding the need to elaborate additional examples of the application of the indicators included in the document No.3 of the ITTO Policy Development Series, "Criteria for the Measurement of Sustainable Tropical Forest Management" in order to make them more usable and facilitate the measurement and monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the Year 2000 Objective;

Welcoming the report of the Expert Panel on Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Document ITTC(XXIV)5 Rev.1] which is based on comments made on the Panel's interim report;

Also welcoming the additional comments on the report made during the Twenty-fourth Session of the Council;

Noting that a revision of Annex 3 of the report has been made addressing these comments on a consensus basis;

Decides to:

1. Request the Executive Director to prepare an ITTO publication based on the Annex 3 of the report entitled "*Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests*";
2. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange financing from the Special Account to meet the cost of publication, and invite Members to contribute to the Special Account for this purpose;
3. Request the Executive Director to distribute the publication widely to members and other interested parties;
4. Encourage Member countries to consider applying the revised ITTO Criteria and Indicators for reporting to ITTO in relation to the Objective Year 2000;
5. Urge member countries to prepare projects to test the revised ITTO Criteria and Indicators;
6. Request the Executive Director to convene an Expert Panel by 30 September 1998, comprising representatives from three producer member countries and three consumer member countries, to produce a manual on the methods that could be used to compile data on indicators at both levels in applying the ITTO "*Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests*";
7. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants to prepare, by 31 August 1998, an internal working paper for the use of the Expert Panel;

8. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange financing for the Expert Panel and the consultants from the Special Account and invite members to contribute to the Special Account for this purpose.
9. Request the Executive Director to circulate the draft manual in three working languages to members and accredited observers, and relevant international organizations, prior to the Twenty-fifth Session of the Council;
10. Invite members and accredited observers, and relevant international organizations to submit comments on the draft manual by 31 March 1999 for incorporation by the Secretariat in consultation with members of the Expert Panel;
11. Request the Executive Director to present the revised manual in three working languages for approval by the Twenty-sixth Session of the Council; and
12. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange funding for the publication and wide distribution of the Action Plan from the Special Account, and invite Members to contribute to the Special Account for this purpose.

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