



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

DECISION 8(XXIV)

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON FOREST FIRE

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Seriously concerned about the disastrous and frequent forest fires in Southeast Asia and other tropical regions;

Reaffirming the obligation and commitment of all members to the objectives of the ITTA, 1994;

Noting the work and activities of the Organization on fire management including the development of the ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests;

Further noting the activities of various relevant U.N. Agencies, especially FAO and UNEP, in the area of forest fire management;

Recognizing the need for urgent international efforts on the issue of forest fire;

Decides to:

1. Upon request, send expert missions to member countries suffering from forest fire, with priority given to those countries which have ongoing ITTO forest fire management-related activities to:
 - (a) Examine the extent and causes of forest fires during 1997 - 1998 in member countries, taking into consideration work already done;
 - (b) Examine the various national and international initiatives being undertaken on forest fires in member countries;
2. Convene a Technical Consultation on the prevention and management of forest fire in relation to tropical timber at the earliest possible opportunity with participation of experts from relevant international and national organizations, non-governmental organizations and individual experts to:
 - (a) Assess the applicability of the ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests based upon the information gained from the mission and the experience of experts;
 - (b) Identify future options for work within the framework of the ITTA, 1994;
3. Appeal for voluntary contributions from all members and other sources to the Special Account to finance the missions and convening of this Technical Consultation on Forest Fire; and
4. Request the Executive Director to report the findings, recommendations and conclusions of the missions and the technical consultation to the Council at its Twenty-fifth Session for its consideration.