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DECISION 7(XXII)

EXPERT PANEL FOR THE TECHNICAL APPRAISAL OF PRE-PROJECT AND PROJECT PROPOSALS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Decision 7(XXI) on strengthening the Project Cycle, and recalling Decisions 6(IX) and 2(X) on the establishment and continuation of the Expert Panel for technical appraisal of project proposals;

Stressing the importance of the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of Project and Pre-project Proposals for the work of the organization;

Welcoming the report by the Executive Director "Proposed Terms of Reference for the Expert Panel for the Technical Appraisal of ITTO Project and Pre-Project Proposals," [Document ITTC(XXII)/8],

Decides to:

1. Assign the Expert Panel the task of technically assessing projects and pre-project proposals submitted by members to ITTO, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the Annex to this Decision;
2. Request producer and consumer member countries, respectively, to identify experts to the Expert Panel for periods of two years, with a possibility of an extension to three, and in accordance with the criteria listed in Decisions 6(IX) and 2(X);
3. Further request member countries to take into account the following criteria in selecting experts:
 - (a) fluency in the Panel language;
 - (b) experience in project formulation and technical assessment of project proposals;
 - (c) expertise in one or more of the three ITTO operational areas (Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry).

ANNEX

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE EXPERT PANEL

The Panel shall:

- (i) Assess new Project and Pre-project proposals submitted to the organization. The recommendations for amendments to these proposals shall be made by the Expert Panel exclusively for the purpose of ensuring their technical soundness.
- (ii) Screen the Project proposals for their relevance to ITTO's Action Plan and Work Programs (in the areas of Economic Information and Market Intelligence, Reforestation and Forest Management, and Forest Industry), and consistency with ITTO decisions and policy guidelines, but not otherwise prioritize them.
- (iii) If reformulations involving major amendments are recommended, request to carry out a final appraisal of the revised versions of Project and Pre-project proposals, prior to their presentation to the relevant ITTO Committees.
- (iv) Report on the results of the technical assessment of Project and Pre-project proposals to submitting governments and the ITTO Council and Committees, through the ITTO Secretariat.
- (v) The Expert Panel shall take into consideration previous Expert Panels' reports.

The Expert Panel, in assessing Projects and Pre-projects, shall also take into account:

- (a) their relevance to the objectives of the ITTA, 1994 and the requirement that a Project or Pre-project should contribute to the achievement of one or more of the Agreement objectives;
- (b) their environmental and social effects;
- (c) their economic effects;
- (d) their cost effectiveness;
- (e) the need to avoid duplication of efforts;
- (f) if applicable, their relationship and integration with ITTO policy work and their consistency with the ITTO Objective 2000 and ITTO approved guidelines including:
 - ITTO Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests, 1990;
 - Guidelines for the Establishment and Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Production Forests, 1993;
 - Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Tropical Production Forests, 1993; and
 - ITTO Guidelines on Fire Management in Tropical Forests, 1996.

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