

TWENTIETH SESSION
15-23 May 1996
Manila, Philippines

DECISION 4(XX)

**UPDATE OF STUDY ON CERTIFICATION
OF ALL INTERNATIONALLY TRADED TIMBER
AND TIMBER PRODUCTS**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recognizing the potential role of timber certification in relation to forest management and market access for timber products;

Noting the on-going international debate on timber certification;

Recognizing further the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) and other relevant institutions on the issue of trade and environment in relation to forest products and services;

Mindful of the importance to continue dialogue on timber certification in the light of the various schemes and initiatives on timber certification;

Taking note of the "Study of the Developments in the Formulation and Implementation of Certification Schemes for All Internationally Traded Timber and Timber Products" which was the subject of consideration at its Twentieth Session;

Decides to:

1. Continue to follow relevant developments in the formulation and implementation of certification schemes for internationally traded timber and timber products;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants (one from a producer member country, the other from a consumer member country) to prepare a comprehensive update;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to arrange for financing the consultancy report from the Special Account and invite members to contribute to the financing and implementation of this ITTO activity;
4. Request the Executive Director to table the report for consideration at its Twenty-third Session.