

SEVENTEENTH SESSION
8-16 November 1994
Yokohama, Japan

DECISION 2(XVII)

THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST DEVELOPMENT IN BOLIVIA

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Reaffirming the obligation and commitment of all Members to the objectives of the ITTA, 1983,

Reaffirming its Decisions 3(X)¹ and 5(X)² of 6 June 1991, in which Members were urged to promote the application, as appropriate, of the various ITTO Guidelines,

Bearing in mind Article 1(a) of the ITTA, 1983, "to provide an effective framework for co-operation and consultation between tropical timber producing and consuming Members with regard to all relevant aspects of the tropical timber economy", and Article 1(h) of the ITTA, 1983, "to encourage the development of national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of tropical forests and their genetic resources, and at maintaining the ecological balance in the regions concerned",

Recalling the statement made by the Minister of Sustainable Development and Environment of Bolivia at the Sixteenth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council, inviting the Council to dispatch a Mission to advise the Government in implementing policies aimed at promoting sustainable forest management,

Recognizing the efforts of the Government of Bolivia in formulating and implementing policies designed to achieve the sustainable development of its forest resources,

Taking note of the statement made by the representative of Bolivia at its current Session,

1. Welcomes and expresses its appreciation to the Government of Bolivia for its decision to invite an ITTO Mission to visit Bolivia, at a date to be decided by mutual agreement,
2. Decides to establish an independent Mission in support of Bolivia's efforts to promote sustainable forest management, with the following terms of reference:

A. Make recommendations, within the framework of ITTO's mandate, taking into account the objectives, policies and strategies adopted by the Government of Bolivia, for an integrated national programme to enable Bolivia to:

¹Council Decision 3(X): Sustainable Tropical Forest Management and Trade in Tropical Timber Products.

²Council Decision 5(X): ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Planted Tropical Forests.

- (i) Assess and monitor the composition and extent of the forest resources in Bolivia, particularly in the Departments of La Paz, Pando, Beni, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Tarija, in order to rationalize their possible productive, protective, social, conservation and other functions for purposes of forest-use planning at the national level.
- (ii) On the basis of the assessed sustainable timber productive capacity of the forests in those Departments, develop a rational forest industry development plan in terms of types and number of industries which can be established with indications of their possible locations. The potential for the sustainable development of non-wood products should also be considered.
- (iii) Examine and analyze the nature of social pressures on forest lands and forest resources as they relate to the promotion of sustainable management of timber producing forests, in order to formulate policies and measures to mitigate such pressures.
- (iv) Examine and promote ways and means to ensure that the development of forest industries take into account the economic, social and other developmental needs of indigenous communities.
- (v) Examine its current legislation, concession and forest revenue systems and formulate, as appropriate, legislative measures and equitable rates and systems of taxation that promote sustainable forest management and logging practices and the establishment of viable industries to generate increased employment opportunities.
- (vi) Develop effective mechanisms and institutional structures to control and promote sustainable development of the forest sector. The needs for research and development and extension activities should also be included.
- (vii) Assess its needs for human resource development with particular emphasis on the training needs of indigenous communities in order to ensure their meaningful and beneficial participation in the various forest sector development programmes proposed.

B. Take into account the views of NGOs and of the representatives of indigenous and other major groups.

C. Examine any other issues, within ITTO's mandate, which the Mission may consider necessary and make pertinent recommendations in order for Bolivia to achieve the sustainable development of its tropical forest resources, including through international assistance, taking into account Bolivia's national efforts and other on-going relevant programmes.

3. Expresses its appreciation for the readiness of the Government of Bolivia to fully co-operate in facilitating the work of the Mission.

4. Urges all Members, and relevant international organizations and international institutions to lend their fullest support for the success of the Mission.

5. Authorizes financing of US\$585,000 from the Pre-Project Sub-Account for the financing of the work of the Mission. This amount does not include costs for local operations and support for which the Executive Director is requested to consult the Bolivian authorities and co-donors as necessary.

6. Requests the Executive Director to undertake the necessary consultations and preparations towards the implementation of this Decision.
7. Requests the Executive Director to communicate this Decision to all international organizations and others interested in the work of the ITTO.
8. Further requests the Executive Director to present progress reports at its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Sessions and the Mission to present its final report to the Council at its Twentieth Session. The Council will decide on the dissemination of the final report.

* * *