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DECISION 4(XIV)
INFORMATION SHARING

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling Articles 27 and 28 in Chapter IX of the ITTA, 1983, which provide for Members to furnish statistics, studies and other information relevant to trade in tropical timber;

Further recalling Decision 3(X) which adopted a strategy by which, through international collaboration and national policies and programmes, ITTO Members will progress towards achieving sustainable management of tropical forests and trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed resources by the Year 2000, and invited Members to confer annually on the progress towards the Year 2000 Target;

Noting other relevant decisions which have been undertaken by the ITTC on this matter, in particular Decision 4(XII), and other work which has been undertaken, including the criteria for measurement of sustainable tropical forest management;

Noting also Decision 5(XIII) which commended a draft format to Members for their consideration and for decision at ITTC(XIV);

Reiterating the benefits to be gained from information sharing to individual Members, in promoting the activities of the Organization and in assisting the achievement of the objectives of the ITTA;

Mindful of the desirability of rationalising the provision of information by Members;

Decides to adopt the format as outlined in the Annex for the preparation of information to be provided to the Organization;

Requests the Executive Director to modify the present format in which information is sought from Members to reflect the contents of the Annex and to introduce this format as soon as practicable.

ANNEX
INFORMATION SHARING

The following format has been agreed by the Council to assist Members in the preparation of information as required under Articles 27 and 28 and for informing the Council of progress towards meeting the Year 2000 Target.

In agreeing to this format, Council sought to rationalise the various statistical and other returns which are requested by the Organization into one which would be completed annually. However, Members would continue to be encouraged to provide updated data to the Organization as soon as possible.

The Council would expect Members to provide information only on those aspects relevant to their own specific circumstances and which are within the scope of the Agreement. At the same time Council recognised the benefits to be gained from information sharing for individual Members, in promoting the activities of the Organization and objectives of the ITTA and encouraged Members to provide as comprehensive information as possible.

Council recognises that the availability of data is presently limited for some Members and that this will affect their ability to prepare this information.

FORMAT

1.INTRODUCTION/SUMMARY

2.INSTITUTIONAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

- Legal and institutional framework for relevant national forest policy and implementation of relevant forest management plans.
- Relationship of ITTO Decisions, the Year 2000 Target and ITTO Guidelines to national forest policy.
- Relevant legislation and other measures affecting trade in timber.
- Measures to increase the efficiency of relevant timber utilisation and promote production of value added timber products.

3.FOREST RESOURCE BASE

- Areas and distribution of relevant protection forests, production forests and plantations and their relation to national goals and targets.
- Plantation establishment targets and annual planting regimes.

4.PRODUCTION AND TRADE OF LOGS, SAWNWOOD, VENEER, PLYWOOD

(where possible, trade data should be based on the internationally agreed harmonised tariff schedule)

- Production level, capacity and efficiency by major products by species groups (where possible) and estimates of future production.

- Export and import values and volumes.
- Prices for major products by species groups.
- Stocks.
- Share of tropical timber in total timber trade.
- Annual trends in timber production from the forest, consumption and international trade.

5.INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

- Relevant international financial and technical co-operation.
- Relevant Research and Development in forest resource conservation, management and development.
- Measures to increase production and utilisation efficiency including measures to increase value adding in producer countries.
- Measures to promote international trade in tropical timber derived from sustainably managed forests.

6.RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES

- Environmental legislation and policies as related to timber: environmental assessments, regulations for forest operations, and other measures.

7.RELEVANT SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

- Economic flows associated with production and/or use of timber.
- Employment.
- Provisions for involvement of local communities.
- General economic conditions which affect supply and demand of wood products.
