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DECISION 4(XIII)

<u>CONSERVATION OF</u> BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY IN TROPICAL PRODUCTION FORESTS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

In accordance with Article 1(h) of the ITTA,

Noting the report of the Working Group to formulate "Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Tropical Production Forests", established in Decision 6(X);

<u>Further noting</u> the recommendation of the Permanent Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management contained in Document PCF(XI)/11 Rev.1;

Decides:

- (a)To adopt the ITTO Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in Tropical Production Forests contained in forthcoming Document ITTC(XI)/7 Rev.3 as described in the above report of the Permanent Committee as an annex to the ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests;
- (b)To commend the ITTO Guidelines as an international reference standard to Members and the international community in general as a major contribution towards the goal of sustainable utilization and conservation of tropical forests and their genetic resources;

Requests the Executive Director to publish the document widely as an annex to the ITTO Guidelines on the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests and promote its use throughout the international community, whilst not preventing Member countries from pursuing project proposals in accordance with the objectives of the ITTA, and to transmit the document to relevant international organisations, particularly the United Nations Environment Program;

<u>Further requests</u> the Executive Director to include the ITTO Guidelines for the Conservation of Biological Diversity of Tropical Production Forests at the next printing of the ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests.

Recognizing the possible need to update these guidelines as appropriate in the light of work being done in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the light of other relevant work;

<u>Invites</u> Member countries to take the ITTO Guidelines into account when submitting project proposals in this field.

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