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ELEVENTH SESSION
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Yokohama

DECISION 6(XI)

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT I

The International Tropical Timber Council,
Recalling the Council's commitment to the Year 2000 Target in Decision 3(X);
Commending the Expert Panel on Possible Methods for Defining General Criteria for and Measurement of Sustainable Tropical Forest Management for its report;
Appreciating the support of the Governments of The Netherlands and Japan for the work of the group;
Noting the importance of defining Sustainable Tropical Forest Management as a contribution to the Global interest in protecting the tropical forests;
Further Noting the critical importance of such a definition to the maintenance and enhancement of trade in tropical timber;

Decides:

1. to request the Executive Director to publish and transmit the text of the Annex to relevant international organizations and fora;
2. ; To invite producing and consuming member states to submit papers for the purpose of refining the text contained in the Annex to the Council for circulation to other member states for consideration at the XII Council meeting
3. To request the delegations to nominate experts to a Consultative Panel, composed of six producing country members and six consuming country members, to examine the issues relevant to sustainable management during the Twelfth Session; and
4. To consider the results of the Panel at the Twelfth Session of the Council.

Annex

Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests. Sustainable forest management is the process of managing permanent forest land to achieve one or more clearly specified objectives of management with regard to the production of a continuous flow of desired forest products and services without undue reduction of its inherent values and future productivity and without undue undesirable effects on the physical and social environment.

Criteria for Sustainability

Introduction. The list of Criteria and Examples of Indicators below is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. Moreover, all of the Examples of Indicators do not need to be measured to establish sustainability or the degree to which it has been achieved. It must be emphasized that determinations of sustainability and, therefore, use of the following list must be specific to each nation or each management unit.

Sustainability at the National Level

Criteria (and) Examples of Indicators

The Forest Resource Base. Comprehensive land use planning and provision for the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE). Present area of the PFE in relation to national goals and targets. Plantation establishment targets, present age class distributions, and annual planting regimes. Areas of Protection Forests and Production Forests within the PFE. The representativeness of the protected areas network and the current or planned reservation programme.

The Continuity of Flow. National production statistics of Forest Products over time. Documentation of logging (area) histories over time. Proposed cutting cycle lengths for major forest types, and standard concession lengths. Regulation of initial harvesting rates in relation to defined cutting cycles and net area of production forest. Regulation of subsequent harvesting in relation to defined cutting cycles, increment data and the net area of production forest. Steps taken to harmonize the first and subsequent cutting cycles and manage the transition from the first to the second cutting cycle. Wood production targets over time from various sources. The availability of silvicultural prescriptions for the major forest types.

The Level of Environmental Control. Management prescriptions for other non-production components of the PFE. The availability of engineering, watershed protection and other environmental management prescriptions for production forests. Availability of environmental assessment procedures.

Socio-Economic Effects. Employment patterns and trends. Income generation and distribution patterns. National revenue and expenditure budgets for forest management. Availability of environmental assessment procedures.

Institutional Frameworks. Existence of a national forest policy. The relationship of national policy to ITTO Guidelines. Adequacy of the legislative framework to implement national forest policies and management plans. Adequacy of legislation to regulate harvesting and manage specific instruments eg, concession agreements. Adequacy of human and financial resources to meet legislative and administrative responsibilities in sustainable forest management.

Community consultation. Existence of management plans and provisions for their implementation.

Sustainability at the Level of the Forest Management Unit

Criteria and Examples of Indicators

Resource Security. The legal establishment of forest areas or management units. Existence of a management plan. Clear demarcation of boundaries in the field. The presence or absence of illegal exploitation and encroachment. The duration of concession

agreements.

The Continuity of Timber. The presence of clear, official Production harvesting rules. Long term soil productivity. A pre-logging stand inventory. The number of trees and/or volume of timber per ha harvested. Provision for monitoring the residual growing stock after logging.

Records of annual product outputs over time. Net productive area. Records of annual areas cut over time.

Conservation. Protection of eco-systems. Flora and Fauna in the concession or management unit. The extent of vegetation disturbance after logging. Extent of soil disturbance.

An Acceptable Level of Environmental Impact. Extent and spatial distribution of riparian and other watershed protection areas. The extent and severity of soil erosion. Provision for protection of bodies of water.

Socio-economic Benefits. - The number of people employed.

- The nature and extent of
benefits from forestry
activities.

Planning and Adjustment - Community consultation.

to Experience - Arrangements for Forest

Management to take into account
traditional forest utilization.
