

DECISION 3 (IX)

THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT:
A CASE STUDY IN SARAWAK, MALAYSIA

The International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC),

Recalling its Resolution 1(VI) and Decision 3(VIII),

Bearing in mind the commitment of Members to sustainable forest development within the framework of the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1983 (ITTA), the Year 2000 target for sustainable forest management and the principles embodied in the ITTO guidelines for sustainable management of natural tropical forests,

1. Reiterates its commitment to promote sustainable management of tropical forests and the sustainable production of and trade in tropical timbers;
2. Recognizes that producer countries with substantial forest resources, in order to achieve sustainable development, will need to utilize such resources and to convert part of the land for agriculture and other uses;
3. Recognizes that if selective harvesting of timber from natural forests is sustained, it will not lead to deforestation or loss of forest cover;
4. Respects the sovereignty of all ITTO Member Countries;
5. Notes the main findings of the ITTO Mission Report as contained in document ITTC(VIII)/7, inter alia:
 - (a) that sustainable forestry in Sarawak can be achieved and is being partly achieved,
 - (b) that whereas forest management in Sarawak, is without doubt, of a higher standard than it is in most tropical timber producing countries and in some developed countries, the present rate of cutting is not fully sustainable,
 - (c) that in order to sustain the socio-economic and other benefits to be derived from natural forests in Sarawak, the report recommended that there will be the need to:
 - i) increase the staff and upgrade skills of the Forest Department and the timber industry,
 - ii) reduce the current rate of harvesting,
 - iii) improve the management of watersheds,
 - iv) increase the areas for bio-diversity conservation,

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v) upgrade the standards of logging, and

vi) support research in forest management;

6. Fully appreciates the commitment by Malaysia to sustainable forest management and conservation, and welcomes the action plans and proposals to so manage the forest resources in Sarawak, which include:

(a) a reduction of the annual cutting rate to achieve the sustainable yield,

(b) the continuing commitment of the Sarawak State Government to seriously consider the interests of all communities in its planning and implementation of development programmes and to enhance local participation in the forest industries,

(c) reserving two areas of natural forests for the Penan community,

(d) the expansion of the Permanent Forest Estate (PFE) by about 1.5 million ha. and acceleration of the process for its establishment,

(e) the increase in the extent of Totally Protected Areas (TPA) by about 0.75 million ha. to effectively conserve bio-diversity,

(f) plans to improve watershed management,

(g) the strengthening of the Forest Department of Sarawak, and

(h) the submission of projects to ITTO for assistance to strengthen sustainable forest management and conservation, including the establishment of a model forest management area;

7. Decides to:

(a) accept the findings of the Sarawak Report,

(b) support the Government of Malaysia and the State of Sarawak to continue to develop and implement comprehensive planning processes based on sustainable forest management, conservation and socio-economic development; including, among others, the management of a Permanent Forest Estate comprising both production and protection forests, a network of Totally Protected Areas for conservation of bio-diversity and plantation development on deforested and degraded lands,

(c) support the Government of Malaysia in the continued development of national forest policies and guidelines for sustainable forest management,

(d) call for international co-operation to fully support and assist the Government of Malaysia's and the State of Sarawak's commitment to implement the recommendations of the Sarawak Report, and

(e) appeal to all Members and all relevant international and non-governmental organizations to use their best endeavours to co-operate with and support the Government of Malaysia and the State of Sarawak in their efforts to achieve sustainable management and conservation of their forest resources.