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DECISION 4(VIII)

The International Tropical Timber Council,

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

Noting the Report of the Working Group to formulate recommendations and principles for preparing 'Guidelines for Best Known Practice' in the management of natural tropical forests established in Decision 3(VII),

Further noting that the Working Party was asked to:

- (a) identify the nature of the guidelines, recognizing that guidelines should be diversified and adapted to regional differences,
- (b) consider a paper prepared for the Government of the United Kingdom and other relevant papers,
- (c) develop recommendations and principles for how guidelines are to be prepared,
- (d) advise the Secretariat on the action to be taken for the commissioning and preparation of the guidelines,

Further noting the recommendation of the Permanent Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management contained in document PCF(VI)/4/Rev.1,

Decides:

- (a) to adopt the ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests contained in document PCF(VI)/16;
- (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 and promote its use throughout the international community, whilst not preventing member countries from pursuing projects proposals, in accordance with the objectives of the ITTA.

