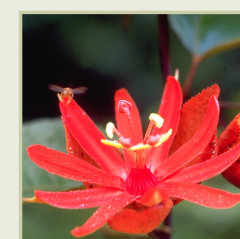




ITTO and biodiversity conservation in tropical forests

**ITTO/CBD Partner Event, 23rd APFC
Session, June 11 2010, Bhutan**



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION



ITTO Mandate

To promote sustainable development through trade, conservation and best-practice management of tropical forests

Mandate implies protection of biodiversity in both protected areas and production forests





Why biodiversity?



- tropical forests home to most terrestrial biodiversity
- essential to functioning, health and long-term viability of tropical forest ecosystems
- silviculture and reproduction of tropical timber species intimately linked to forest biodiversity, many mechanisms still not understood
- SFM means taking care of all forest values



Policy Work



- 1988 – ITTO/IUCN study of biodiversity in production forests
- 1993 – First ITTO Biodiversity Guidelines published
- 2003 – Decision to revise and update the Guidelines
- 2006 – 2007 Field verification of draft revised Guidelines
- 2007 – Revised Guidelines approved
- 2008 – Publication of revised ITTO-IUCN Guidelines
- 2010 – MOU with CBD





Why focus on production forests?

- few tropical forests effectively protected
- bulk of biodiversity in managed forests
- conserving biodiversity means working in managed/exploited forests
- production forests valuable economic asset
- sustainable, selective timber harvesting represents best compromise between desirability to protect species and need to generate wealth/employment
- production forests need to be part of integrated land-use strategy including TPAs
- SFM means production forests can retain similar levels of biodiversity as TPAs



Implementing Guidelines: constraints

- Capacity to do biodiversity surveys is scarce – and expensive
- Costs (including training) for specialised staff could be exorbitant
- Companies nervous about a new layer of regulation
- Danger of early adopters getting criticised by environmental groups



Implementing Guidelines: opportunities

- Many examples of companies doing good work
 - need to recognise and encourage them
- Several international and national NGOs with capacity – need to support them
- Consistent with policies in many ITTO members
- Need for:
 - More field programmes
 - More lesson sharing
 - More dissemination to conservation lobbies

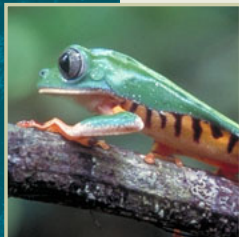


Implementing Guidelines: conclusions

- A lot of progress since 1993 but not uniform
- Several other organizations incorporating into work programs (eg CBD PoW on forests)
- Several interesting field trials underway
- No cookie cutter formula for conserving biodiversity - every case different
- Skill and judgement of forest managers at all levels is the key ingredient, Guidelines help
- Incentives and offsetting of costs essential
- Logging/SFM part of solution; private sector must be engaged



Project work



- \$50 million in projects explicitly related to biodiversity conservation throughout tropics, in both production and protection forests
- Many more projects on SFM/forest management plans where biodiversity conservation is implicit
- Most visible part of project portfolio involves efforts to establish/sustainably manage a series of transboundary conservation areas

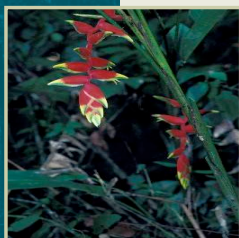


Transboundary conservation

- Starting point for sustainable timber trade is an adequate land-use strategy
- Totally protected areas a key element of land-use strategy
- Guidelines call for all countries to establish representative network of TPAs
- Transboundary protected areas usually best managed protected areas; more likely to be actually protected
- Such reserves provide larger areas, wildlife corridors and representation of ecosystems, can also contribute to reductions in illegal logging/ wildlife poaching and even to regional peace



Transboundary conservation



<u>Region</u>	<u>Countries</u>	<u>Area (MM ha)</u>
Lanjak-Entimau/ Betung Kerihun	Malaysia/Indonesia	0.98
Kayan Mentarang	Indonesia/Malaysia	1.40
Phatam (Emerald Triangle)	Thailand/Cambodia	0.13
Condor Range	Peru/Ecuador	2.42
Tambopata/Madidi	Peru/Bolivia	2.85
Northern Congo	Congo/Cameroon/CAR	1.70
Mengamé	Cameroon/Gabon	0.13
<u>Total</u>		<u>9.61</u>



Transboundary conservation



- first established is Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) and Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) Transboundary Conservation Reserve
- straddles borders of Sarawak (Malaysia) and Kalimantan (Indonesia), covers almost 1 million ha of central Borneo
- 3 ITTO projects have assisted in establishment, surveying and management



Transboundary conservation



- richest area for herpetofauna in Asia
- >140 species of medicinal plants, >1000 tree species
- ITTO funded establishment and management plans for both parks, 1997 Borneo Biodiversity Expedition
- BBE identified/observed 5 new tree species, 2 new palms, 120 species of orchid collected, 168 species of bryophytes, 125 species of fish (several believed new to science), 291 bird species and 6 primate species
- believed to contain over 3000 orang utan and 50,000 gibbons, important site for primate conservation



Biodiversity and climate change

- Climate change will bring new challenges
- REDD may bring opportunities
- Pest and disease problems may be more significant
- Invasive species a growing issue
- Knowledge of forest ecology is more important than ever
- ITTO will continue to target policy and project work in this area to meet evolving needs



THANK YOU

johnson@itto.int

www.itto.int