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DECISION 6(XLVI)

ITTO/CBD COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE TO CONSERVE TROPICAL FOREST BIODIVERSITY

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Taking note of the achievements of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 in raising public awareness for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for present and future generations;

Noting with concern the increasing loss of biodiversity in tropical forests;

Recalling the ITTO Action Plan 2008-2011, which calls for ITTO to identify opportunities for the development of schemes to promote environmental services that complement tropical timber production, to monitor the impacts of conservation, protection and transboundary areas and their relationships to achieving SFM, and to establish, in close collaboration with other relevant organizations and bodies, areas dedicated to biodiversity conservation;

Also recognizing the importance of the application in ITTO member countries of the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests (ITTO Policy Series 17);

Underscoring the need to further strengthen ITTO's support to members in their efforts to conserve, manage and monitor the biodiversity in their tropical forests;

Further noting the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Decision X/2 on the new Strategic Plan of the CBD for the period 2011-2020, in the framework of the International Decade of Biodiversity;

Welcoming CBD Decision X/36 on Forest Biodiversity, that recommends the development of collaborative actions between the CBD and ITTO Secretariats to strengthen the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity;

Recognizing the common issues addressed by the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity and the objectives of the International Tropical Timber Agreements, 1994 and 2006, to promote the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and sustainable forest management (SFM) in support of poverty alleviation and overall sustainable development;

Reaffirming the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Secretariats of CBD and ITTO that aims to strengthen implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries;

Decides to:

1. Further develop the collaborative initiative between CBD and ITTO with a focus on the following work areas:
 - a. Enhanced biodiversity conservation in production forests and rehabilitation of secondary forests, including the promotion and application of the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests;
 - b. Improved conservation and management of protected areas in relation to SFM, including transboundary conservation areas;

- c. Enhanced provision of environmental services from tropical forests through SFM, thereby promoting synergies with biodiversity conservation and other associated ecosystem services; and
 - d. Improved welfare of indigenous and local communities, based on the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the sustainable use of their biodiversity.
2. Request the Executive Director to promote the collaborative initiative for the benefit of ITTO members, including the development of a programme document to provide guidance for possible joint activities and request members to approve the programme document subject to a time-bound, electronic no-objection procedure with an approval period of not less than thirty(30) days;
3. Invite ITTO members, Parties to the CBD, and relevant organizations to support joint activities under the framework of this Decision; and
4. Regularly review progress in promoting tropical forest biodiversity conservation in ITTO member countries under this collaborative initiative.

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