



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

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DECISION 5(XLVIII)

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES

Recognizing that the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 2006, the successor agreement to the International Tropical Timber Agreement, 1994, entered into force on 7 December 2011;

Noting article 26, paragraph 1, of the ITTA, 2006, which establishes four committees of the Organization: Committee on Forest Industry; Committee on Economics, Statistics and Markets; Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management; and Committee on Finance and Administration;

Further noting article 26, paragraph 3, which provides that the Council shall determine the functioning and scope of work of these committees;

Welcoming the outcome of the ITTO Meeting on Operational Modalities of Future Work of the International Tropical Timber Council held in Accra, Ghana, from 9 to 12 June 2008;

Decides to adopt the functions of the Committees as contained in the Annex to this Decision.

ANNEX

FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

A. Functions Common to the Committee

1. Advise and make recommendations to the Council on respective policy matters, including identifying new and emerging issues [pursuant to Article 1 (s) of the ITTA, 2006] and opportunities for cooperation with international and regional organizations, processes and initiatives.
2. Advise and make recommendations to the Council jointly on cross-cutting matters, for example those related to:
 - a. The role of forests in contributing to sustainable development and poverty alleviation;
 - b. Strategies for achieving exports of tropical timber from sustainably managed resources;
 - c. Strengthening the capacity of Members to improve forest law enforcement and governance and to address illegal logging and related trade in tropical timber; and
 - d. The contribution of non-timber forest products and environmental services to sustainable management of tropical forests.
3. Share information on voluntary mechanisms for promoting sustainable tropical forest management; and
4. Provide efficient mechanisms for Members to:
 - a. Approve pre-project and project proposals; and
 - b. Review appeals arising in connection with the review of project proposals by the Expert Panel on the Technical Appraisal of Projects and Pre-Projects.
5. Ensure effective design, monitoring and evaluation of pre-projects and projects, including through ex-post evaluations of completed projects and reports, with a focus on lessons learned.
6. Review projects with implementation problems, in particular, those requiring additional funding.
7. Review reports of ITTO diagnostic missions presented to Council, with a view to advising Council on follow up actions needed.
8. Encourage contributions of the Civil Society Advisory Group and Trade Advisory Group in the Committees' policy agendas in order to broaden the information base on stakeholder views.
9. Review progress and constraints in implementing the ITTO Action Plan.
10. Advise on the development of effective mechanisms for the provision of new and additional financial resources from all sources.

B. Functions of the Committee on Forest Industry

1. Promote increased and further processing of tropical timber from sustainable sources in producer member countries, including by small and medium sized forest enterprises.
2. Promote and support research and development, and share information and experiences related to forest industries, including cooperation among members, with particular emphasis on:
 - a. Developments in further processing and new product technologies relevant to tropical timber and non-timber forest products;
 - b. Employment, human resources development and training;
 - c. Investment and joint ventures, including enabling environments;
 - d. Use of lesser known and lesser used species;
 - e. Harmonization of nomenclature and specifications of processed products;
 - f. Improving knowledge and development of codes and standards;
 - g. Use of efficient wood processing and utilization technologies to improve economic output, reduce waste and enhance recycling;
 - h. Diversification in utilization of wood; and
 - i. Fostering competitiveness of forest products from sustainably managed tropical forests.

3. Review research and development needs to improve wood utilization and the competitiveness of the tropical wood products industry relative to other products.
4. Make recommendations to Council on the above matters, as appropriate.

C. Functions of the Committee on Economics, Statistic and Markets

1. Review structural conditions in international timber markets, emphasizing markets for tropical timber, including:
 - a. Factors affecting market access;
 - b. Current situation and short-term prospects;
 - c. Consumer preferences; and
 - d. Conditions leading to prices reflecting costs of sustainable forest management.
2. Make recommendations to the Council on the need for, and nature of, studies contributing to market transparency and understanding of market conditions and economic issues associated with tropical timber, including studies on:
 - a. Prices and market adjustments to changes in prices;
 - b. Factors affecting competitiveness and substitution;
 - c. Marketing and distribution of tropical timber and timber products, including new products;
 - d. Market trends, including information on species and trade-related data; and
 - e. Long-term trends in consumption and production.
3. Identify ways to improve marketing and distribution of tropical timber by promoting consumer awareness of tropical timber and timber products from sustainably managed and legally harvested sources.
4. Advise the Council on the type of statistical information to be provided by Members.
5. Review the availability and quality of statistic and other information furnished by members under Article 27.5, and advise Council on appropriate action, including on technical capacity building needs of members of to meet their statistic and reporting requirements.
6. Make recommendations to Council on preparations for the biennial review of the international timber situation.

D. Functions of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management

1. Exchange information on the management of tropical timber producing forests and identify ways to enhance the sustainable management of tropical forests, inter alia by reviewing developments on:
 - a. Research and development applications for improving management of tropical timber producing forests;
 - b. Afforestation and reforestation, and rehabilitation and restoration of degraded forest land;
 - c. The application of ITTO and other comparable criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management as important tools for all members to assess, monitor and promote progress toward sustainable management of their forests;
 - d. Conservation of other forest values, such as biodiversity and wildlife, in timber producing forests;
 - e. Integrated approaches to forest management, including protected areas;
 - f. Addressing threats from fire, pests, diseases and invasive alien species; and
 - g. The relationship of forests to sustainable development, poverty alleviation, food security and climate change.
2. Share experiences on national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of timber producing forests, as well as on the implementation of national forest programmes.
3. Consider strategies to enhance the capacity of forest-dependent communities to sustainably manage tropical timber producing forests.
4. Make recommendations to Council on the above matters, as appropriate.

E. Functions of the Committee on Finance and Administration

1. Examine and make recommendations to the Council regarding approval of the Organization's administrative budget and the management operations of the Organization.
2. Review the assets of the Organization to ensure prudent asset management and to ensure that the Organization has sufficient reserves to carry out its work.
3. Examine and make recommendations to the Council on the budgetary implications of the Organization's biennial work programme and on actions that might be taken to secure the resources needed to implement the objectives of the ITTA.
4. Recommend to the Council the choice of independent auditors and review the independent audited statements.
5. Recommend to the Council any modifications the Committee may judge necessary to the Organization's Rules of Procedure or the Financial Rules.
6. Review the Organization's revenues and the extent to which they constrain the work of the Secretariat.

F. Committee Procedures

1. Where appropriate, Committees should meet jointly. As a general rule, the three Technical Committees meet in joint sessions when considering matters of mutual interest including cross-cutting issues, annual market discussion, findings of diagnostic missions and ex-post evaluations of completed projects. The Committees on Forest Industry and on Economics, Statistic and Markets will continue to meet jointly due to their related agendas.

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