



FORTY-THIRD SESSION  
5-10 November 2007  
Yokohama, Japan

**DECISION 4(XLIII)**

**CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY  
IN TROPICAL TIMBER PRODUCING FORESTS**

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Noting the importance of forest biodiversity and the valuable contribution that sustainably managed tropical timber production forests can make to biodiversity conservation at all levels;

Recalling Decision 4(XXXV), which authorised the engagement of consultants to review and revise the 1993 *ITTO Guidelines for the Conservation of biological diversity in Tropical Production Forests* adopted by Decision 4(XIII);

Further recalling Decision 8(XXX) on cooperation between ITTO and IUCN;

Acknowledging the valuable assistance given by the four Producer Member countries in which the draft guidelines had been field tested in accordance with the Recommendations from CRF XXXVII;

Also acknowledging the useful contribution of the individuals and institutions that have provided peer review of earlier draft material;

Recognising the value of operational guidelines in assisting Member Countries in building their capacity and accelerating their progress towards achieving Objective 2000;

Realising the need to raise awareness of this important issue:

Decides to:

1. Welcome the draft *ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Producing Forests*;
2. Request members and other interested parties to provide detailed comments on the content and observations on the title, structure and format by 15 February 2008;
3. Request the Executive Director to arrange for the incorporation of relevant comments and observations received into a final draft and make this final draft available widely in the three official languages of the Organisation to Members and other interested parties through the ITTO Website prior to review and formal adoption at the next Session;
4. Encourage Members to adapt and make use of relevant principles, guidelines and actions in the *Draft ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Producing Forests* on a regional, national and/or local basis wherever appropriate in their work, including ITTO project proposals and reporting;

5. Request the Executive Director to highlight and commend the *Draft ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Producing Forests* at relevant international events; and
6. Authorise the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions to meet the financial requirements of this Decision, not exceeding US\$120,000. If sufficient funds are not received by 31 January 2008, the Executive Director is requested to use funds from Sub-account B of the Bali Partnership Fund.

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