



INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

ITTC(XLIX)/18
30 November 2013

Original: ENGLISH

FORTY-NINTH SESSION
25-30 November 2013
Libreville, Gabon

DECISION 4(XLIX)

ITTO VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL TROPICAL FORESTS

The International Tropical Timber Council,

Recalling the ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests published in 1990 as ITTO's first policy guidance document on the management of natural tropical forests;

Acknowledging the efforts by producer countries to implement the existing guidelines on the sustainable management of natural tropical forests published in 1990, and the substantial support for these efforts provided by consumers and donors;

Also recalling the ITTO Action Plan 2008-2011 which calls for review, revision and promotion of the use of the ITTO guidelines; the ITTO Biennial Work Programme for the Years 2010-2011 which makes specific reference to the review and update of the ITTO "Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (1990)" by taking into account recent developments in tropical forestry; and the ITTO Biennial Work Programme for the Years 2013-2014 which calls for the final revision of the draft revised ITTO Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests for approval at the Forty-ninth Session of the Council;

Further recalling the draft of the revised ITTO Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Document CRF(XLV)/7] and the comments on the draft from Members as well as the report of the draft revised ITTO Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Document CRF(XLVI)/8a] and the report of validating the Draft Revised ITTO Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Document CRF(XLVI)/8b];

Welcoming the report of the final draft ITTO Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests [Document CRF(XLVII)/6];

Also welcoming the additional comments on the report of the final draft revised ITTO Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests made during the Forty-seventh Session of the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management and the Forty-ninth Session of the Council;

Acknowledging the outcomes of the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits of forests to people and the contributions of sustainable forest management to the themes and objective of the Conference;

Recognizing the current and potential contributions of sustainable forest management to the conservation of forest biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, livelihoods of forest-dependant people, and the sustainable supply of timber and non-timber forest products;

Also recognizing the need for ITTO to assist Members to build capacity and help accelerate progress towards sustainable forest management;

Also noting that the "ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests" will assist Members in the development and implementation of forest policies and best practices of forest management in the tropics;

Decides to:

1. Invite Members to provide comments on the draft of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (CRF(XLVII)/6 dated 25 September 2013) to be submitted to the ITTO Secretariat by 30 April 2014;
2. Revise the final draft of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines by 31 May 2014 taking into account comments received from members;
3. Make available to Members the revised final draft of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines on the ITTO website on 1 June 2014;
4. Adopt, through an electronic non-objection procedure, the final draft of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines by 31 July 2014;
5. Request the Executive Director to prepare and publish the adopted ITTO Voluntary Guidelines and to distribute the publication widely to Members and other interested parties;
6. Request the Executive Director to undertake the following actions to promote the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines and their application by Members:
 - a. Publish an information brochure summarizing the Guidelines (“Voluntary Guidelines at a glance”) in the three official languages of ITTO to be widely distributed;
 - b. Hold three regional capacity building training workshops to promote the understanding of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines and encourage country-level initiatives, according to the attached Terms of Reference;
 - c. Encourage Members to apply the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines considering the national circumstances of member countries and to submit project proposals to ITTO where appropriate;
7. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Members and other potential donors to meet the financial requirements of this Decision, not exceeding US\$350,000.00;
8. Encourage members, the private sector and the international community in general to use the adopted ITTO Voluntary Guidelines as a reference and a contribution towards the challenging task of sustainable management of natural tropical forests, taking into account national circumstances, capacity and assistance provided under the framework of the ITTA, 2006, and other modalities;
9. Encourage Members and other potential donors to provide additional funds for promoting and applying the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines and adoption of national guidelines on the sustainable management of natural tropical forests.

Budget

Publication and dissemination of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines	US\$ 94,500
Three (3) regional training workshops (USD 70,000 each)	US\$ 210,000
Programme support cost (15%)	US\$ 45,500
Total	US\$ 350,000

Terms of Reference for the Workshops

Three regional capacity building training workshops (one in each tropical region) will be held to facilitate the effective and wider application of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests.

The objectives of the workshops are:

- To facilitate consultations and promote a better understanding of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests in particular to revitalize and renew the basics of sustainable forest management especially among decision makers and professional foresters and forestry enterprises operating in producer countries;
- To raise awareness among governments, donor agencies, private sector, NGOs and regional and international organizations on the benefits of sustainable forest management to the conservation of forest biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, livelihoods of forest-dependant people, and the sustainable supply of timber and non-timber forest products from tropical natural forests;
- To encourage the effective implementation of the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests considering the national circumstances of member countries; and
- To enhance partnerships with relevant agencies engaged in sustainable forest management of natural tropical forests.

The workshops are intended to target members and forestry operators and may also include as appropriate:

- Trade Advisory Group and Civil Society Advisory Group
- Local educational and research institutions
- Certification bodies
- Private sector
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Non-governmental organizations

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