

17.39 TROPICAL FORESTRY ACTION PLAN

WELCOMING the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank and the World Resources Institute (WRI) in developing the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), and NOTING the support of the international development assistance community for its implementation;

WELCOMING ESPECIALLY the importance that the TFAP attributes to the broad environmental role of forests as a basis for sustainable economic and social development;

RECOGNIZING that the implementation of TFAP would result in investments in establishing and managing protected areas and in the better sustained yield management of natural forests and would thus favour the maintenance of very extensive areas of tropical forests;

RECOGNIZING FURTHER that several of the TFAP components can contribute effectively to the reduction of human pressure on forest lands, to the halting of deforestation and to the restoration of degraded forests;

NOTING, however, that TFAP targets for investments in forest ecosystem conservation have not yet been met;

NOTING FURTHER the important role that nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) could have in the formulation and implementation of the TFAP at national level, and COMMENDING the determination of lead organizations in TFAP exercises to involve NGOs in the process;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

1. CALLS upon national NGOs to devise mechanisms, such as the nomination of representatives, for more effective participation by NGOs in TFAP implementation.
2. REQUESTS governments and development assistance agencies to allocate a substantial proportion of TFAP resources to the implementation of proposals contributing directly to the conservation of tropical forest ecosystems, and to the promotion of systems for the sustainable management of production forests.
3. REQUESTS FURTHER that investments under the TFAP be used to ensure adequate supplies of timber and firewood to local communities as a means of relieving pressure on natural forests of special conservation value, where possible by the restoration of degraded lands;
4. RECOMMENDS to the Forestry Advisers Group of the TFAP that a representative of citizen NGOs should participate in their meetings and that NGOs should be involved in all national sector reviews carried out under the TFAP.
5. RECOMMENDS FURTHER the elaboration and adoption of guidelines to ensure that ecosystem conservation issues are adequately addressed in TFAP donor coordination missions, that these missions should include a conservation scientist on the review team, and that the lead agency should take steps to obtain a full brief from IUCN concerning critical ecosystems and species at risk.

