

## **17.40 INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER AGREEMENT**

CONSIDERING that a sustainable international trade in forest products may provide a sound basis for investment in maintaining tropical forest resources;

RECOGNIZING that, after adequate provision has been made for the establishment of protected areas, other areas of tropical forest, specially selected for the purpose, may justifiably be allocated for the sustainable production of timber and other high value products, provided that such management has been shown to be possible in these areas;

RECOGNIZING ALSO that this sustainable production may well serve the interests of conservation;

CONSIDERING that the better harmonization of interest between timber exporting and importing countries should provide a more stable market and therefore a sounder basis for sustainable forest management;

RECOGNIZING that one of the main aims of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is to ensure a continuous supply of timber through the management of natural forests for sustained yield and that ITTO has a specific remit to promote national policies to this end;

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

- I. URGES ITTO to give high priority, through its Permanent Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management, to those aspects of its work which are concerned with natural forest management and reforestation of degraded lands.
2. ALSO URGES the government members of ITTO to take action to limit the exploitation of forest for timber to those forests which are able to provide a sustained yield without significant deterioration, and to stop logging of forests identified as critical sites for the conservation of biological diversity and rights of indigenous peoples.
3. FURTHER URGES ITTO to make the fullest use of the knowledge and services of IUCN, other conservation organizations and indigenous peoples organizations in the identification and monitoring of such sites.
4. RECOMMENDS that ITTO should compile a list of rare, threatened and legally protected tropical timber species, and carry out detailed case studies on these, in order that they and their genetic variation may be protected, and measures taken to build up stocks by plantation. In this it should liaise closely with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
5. CALLS on government members of ITTO to give full support to the Organization, to propose projects along the above lines and to provide generous finance to the ITTO project fund for this purpose, and to do this in full cooperation with the Tropical Forestry Action Plan.
6. RECOMMENDS that IUCN work with ITTO in developing a portfolio of projects to encourage and promote only those forms of forest management and timber extraction that will ensure a sustained supply of timber, while maintaining to a substantial degree the biological diversity and structure of the forest, and preserving the rights of indigenous peoples.