

## 18.31 Tropical Forestry Action Plan

CONCERNED that global rates of tropical deforestation have reached between 16 and 20 million hectares per year, nearly double the rate of loss estimated in 1980;

AWARE that the present rate and pattern of loss will rapidly lead to the complete disappearance of all unprotected areas of tropical forests in some regions of extreme importance for conservation;

CONCERNED that a 1988 study commissioned for the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) concluded that only about one million hectares of tropical forest was demonstrably managed successfully for a sustainable yield of timber but that the reasons for this failure were mainly institutional and socio-economic and could in many cases be removed if a true commitment were made to achieving good forest management;

NOTING that a primary aim of the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP), initiated in 1985, has been to slow tropical deforestation but that in June 1990 the world's leading economic powers explicitly resolved that the "Tropical Forestry Action Plan must be reformed and strengthened, placing more emphasis on forest conservation and protection of biological diversity";

GRAVELY CONCERNED that a 1990 study of indigenous peoples and TFAP carried out by the World Resources Institute concluded that "without major revisions ... the plan may contribute to cultural destruction";

CONCERNED that access to information and consultation with the public under TFAP has been inadequate both internationally and at the country level, in spite of the intention of the Plan's framers to create a "bottom-up" participatory process in the design and planning of national TFAPs;

RECOGNIZING that the 1990 independent review of TFAP commissioned by FAO concluded that "most national plans ... simply justify increased investment in the forestry sector—a focus too narrow to adequately address the root causes of deforestation much less to affect them significantly" and that "the TFAP should not encourage logging of remaining natural forests until a management system is in place and has been demonstrated to be both feasible and responsive to the needs and concerns of local communities";

DISTURBED that a 1990 study by the World Rain-forest Movement indicated that logging and rates of deforestation would probably increase as a result of implementation of the national TFAPs in six out of the nine countries for which plans had been prepared by that date;

AWARE that badly conducted commercial logging may destroy or damage up to two-thirds of the non-marketable trees in any area of logging, may destroy young individuals of economic tree species precluding a full regeneration of the forest, and may contribute to the decline in economic value of forested land

after the removal of the most valuable trees;

GRAVELY CONCERNED that FAO has estimated that 70 per cent of forest cleared for agriculture is in areas rendered accessible by logging roads;

RECOGNIZING that in April 1990 over 50 international environmental organizations called for a moratorium on international funding for TFAP in its current form, and that in August 1990 over 20 international environmental organizations urged the World Bank to cease financing of projects that would result in increased logging in previously unlogged tropical forests;

The General Assembly of IUCN—The World Conservation Union, at its 18th Session in Perth, Australia, 28 November-5 December 1990:

1. URGES the governments and institutions participating in TFAP to use it as an instrument to promote the wise use of all tropical forest lands in accordance with the principles of the World Conservation Strategy, giving special attention to meeting the needs and aspirations of forest-dwelling peoples and to conserving the full range of biological diversity, and in particular to ensure that, within the framework of TFAP:
  - a. adequate social surveys document current uses of, and traditional rights to, tropical forest lands and that measures are taken to ensure that these are not abused in projects to develop industrial uses of the forest;
  - b. comprehensive economic analyses examine the potential gains from all alternative forms of forest development and in particular establish the relative benefits of the commercial mining of timber as opposed to community-based forest management systems based upon non-timber forest products;
  - c. national parks and equivalent reserves are designated and that these are appropriately located and sufficiently extensive to protect representative examples of all forest types and the full range of biological diversity of the country or region;
  - d. international support is provided to ensure adequate levels of management for the protected area system;
  - e. plans for managed natural forests provide for the sustainability of all forest values. Such plans must include measures to protect the interests of local people affected by the Plan as well as requiring the application of the ITTO Guidelines in both logging and silvicultural treatments so as to maintain environmental values and protect the diversity of wild flora and fauna. The capacity of the forest management authority must be sufficient to give reasonable expectation that these plans will be respected;
  - f. logging, road construction or related infrastructure are not developed in previously unlogged primary tropical forests, unless there is reasonable certainty that this will not result in logging which fails to achieve the goals of sub-paragraph (e) or unplanned occupation of forest lands;
2. RESOLVES that the enormous worldwide concern

for, and greatly increased aid flows to, tropical forest conservation require that an effective mechanism be put in place to coordinate aid and ensure that it genuinely addresses the complex social and ecological constraints to achieving wise use of tropical forest lands;

3. STRONGLY ENDORSES the recommendation of the independent review committee that the TFAP process should be strengthened at the country level;
4. STRESSES that TFAP exercises should complement and not duplicate other conservation planning activities such as National Conservation Strategies and Environmental Action Plans and should wherever possible be fully integrated with national land-use and development planning programmes;
5. URGES IUCN to join the governmental and inter-governmental institutions participating in TFAP in the follow-up meetings related to the reform process and in the development of mechanisms such as the proposed international steering committee or consultative group;
6. FURTHER URGES IUCN to develop strategies for its participation at the national and international level in projects contributing to the implementation of a reformed TFAP and to ensure that concerns of its members are injected therein.

