

## 18.32 International Tropical Timber Agreement

RECALLING that the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) was the subject of Recommendation 17.40 of the 17th Session of the General Assembly;

CONVINCED that a sustainable international trade in forest products should be part of a global strategy for the maintenance of forest resources, and that forests used for timber production must be integrated with a network of fully protected areas;

CONCERNED that a report commissioned by the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) concluded that less than one per cent of lands used for timber production in ITTO producer nations is under sustainable forms of management;

RECOGNIZING that at its 8th Council Session in Denpasar, Bali, ITTO responded to this analysis by setting a target date of the year 2000 by which all tropical timber traded internationally should come from sustainably managed forests;

COMMENDING the decision by ITTO at its 8th Council Session to adopt an international reference standard for guidelines on best practice to achieve forest management;

WELCOMING ITTO's encouragement of all its member States to develop and implement national guidelines based on this reference standard;

NOTING that ITTO producer countries have expressed their willingness to move towards sustainable forest management, but have called for increased international support for their efforts, notably in the form of increased prices for timber exports, further domestic processing facilities, and increased international development assistance for forest conservation;

WELCOMING the adoption by ITTO at its 9th Council Session of a comprehensive Action Plan centred on the Organization's unique role as an international forum for the development of policies for the widespread implementation of sustainable forest management;

RECALLING the recommendations made at the IUCN/ITTO workshop on Realistic Strategies for Tropical Forests, held during the course of this General Assembly;

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

1. CONGRATULATES ITTO and its producer member nations on their farsightedness in analysing the state of management of their tropical forests and seeking to implement corrective measures;
2. URGES timber-producing members of ITTO to develop and implement national guidelines for sustainable management as a matter of urgent priority, with maximum reliance on the use of

secondary rather than primary forests and on appropriate plantation development, with a view to achieving the target of a sustainable international trade in timber even before the year 2000;

3. CALLS UPON all States Parties to the ITTA to develop a comprehensive package of measures, including protocols for systems of certification, monitoring, management guidelines and the necessary financial support for their implementation, to make trade in tropical timber conditional on:
  - a. the implementation of sustainable forest management;
  - b. the full and informed consent of the traditional forest owners and dwellers in the areas concerned;
4. COMMENDS the draft Guidelines for Biodiversity Conservation in Production Forests and the suggested Biodiversity Strategy for ITTO developed in the IUCN/ITTO workshop as important contributions to an ITTO strategy for maximizing the conservation potential of forests managed for timber production;
5. CALLS UPON ITTO to integrate the interests of traditional forest owners and dwellers in all relevant aspects of its activities;
6. COMMENDS the decision of ITTO at its 9th Council Session to reform its Project Cycle and urges ITTO to develop a comprehensive process for screening, monitoring and evaluating ITTO projects, with particular attention to their environmental and social impacts;
7. URGES ITTO to take its place as a world leader in the conservation of tropical forests by concentrating its activities on the interface between the dual imperatives of conservation of biodiversity and the maintenance of the forests' potential for the production of timber and other products.

