

18.60 Tropical Timbers from East Malaysia

CONSIDERING the opposition and distress of indigenous people arising from the logging of tropical forests;

CONSIDERING also that this logging is at present being carried out at a rate that cannot be sustained and in ways that cause serious environmental damage to soils, streams and rivers;

NOTING the findings and recommendations of the ITTO study *The Promotion of Sustainable Forest Management—a Case Study in Sarawak, Malaysia*;

NOTING also that the Governments of Sarawak and Malaysia have accepted this report and declared their firm intention to implement its recommendations;

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

1. WELCOMES the decision of the Governments of Sarawak and Malaysia to implement the findings of the report, including measures to reduce the rate of harvesting in stages to a level at which yield is sustainable and to increase the land included in protected areas to cover adequately the full range of variation of ecosystems in the State;
2. WELCOMES also the establishment of reserves in the Ulu Limbang and Ulu Baram areas to protect the living space of some communities of indigenous people;
3. URGES the Government of Sarawak to:
 - a. respect the rights of the traditional inhabitants and users of the land;
 - b. rapidly resolve outstanding land disputes involving indigenous people;
 - c. consolidate the Permanent Forest Estate and complete the network of protected areas in full consultation with the people likely to be affected thereby;
 - d. halt logging in areas subject to severe erosion or which are in dispute with local communities;
 - e. apply environmentally sound harvesting practices and ensure greater participation of local communities in the benefits derived from any harvesting of forest products;
4. CALLS UPON the State of Sabah to make a similar study and take similar action;
5. FURTHER CALLS UPON all States and international funding agencies, on evidence of a clear intention by Malaysia, particularly Sarawak, to take firm action to assist the Malaysian authorities in all possible ways to accomplish the above objectives;
6. STRONGLY URGES that all timber-importing countries provide incentives for timbers from Sarawak, Sabah and the other States of Malaysia that are produced in ways which fully conform to

the findings of the ITTO Sarawak report and to the principles of IUCN, and discourage the import of timbers from unsustainable sources.

Note: The amended language of operative paragraph 6 was agreed by a substantial majority. The recommendation as a whole was then adopted by consensus.