

## 1.23 Forest Management Plans in South America

CONSIDERING that the unsustainable commercial exploitation of timber has been a powerful threat to the integrity and diversity of natural forests;

NOTING the technical, scientific, social and environmental shortcomings currently apparent in the formulation and implementation of plans for the management of the forests of South America;

CONSIDERING that the knowledge of forest ecosystems and their use in Latin America, although needing to be systematized and further extended, is sufficiently developed to provide the basis for the formulation and implementation of comprehensive, sustainable management plans, and that the lack of knowledge and technical tools cannot therefore be cited as grounds for justifying the non-sustainable utilization of South American forests;

NOTING that while in many South American countries management plans are a prerequisite for obtaining authorizations for forest activities, in practice such plans become mere justifications for obtaining logging permits;

OBSERVING that current management plans recognize neither the heterogeneity and potential of non-timber forest products, nor the many benefits provided by forests to society;

CONSIDERING the objective under the terms of the International Tropical Timber Agreement that by the year 2000 all timber sold on world markets would originate in forests which are sustainably managed;

MINDFUL that most South American governments have expressed in the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) their willingness to make efforts to achieve the sustainable use of forests;

The World Conservation Congress at its 1st Session in Montreal, Canada, 14–23 October 1996:

1. RECOMMENDS that the governments of South American countries:
  - a) take into account the principles of social equity, conservation of biological diversity and maintenance of the many benefits provided by forests, in the preparation, approval and implementation of management plans;
  - b) define transparent mechanisms for the development, control and monitoring of the implementation of management plans;
  - c) create incentives and forms of cooperation between the business sector and local populations with a view to developing and implementing forest management plans which imply diversified use of forest and other resources derived from forest ecosystems, establishing a balance between environmental, social and economic criteria;
  - d) encourage and sponsor research and learning activities based on experience and knowledge, with a view to achieving a constant improvement in forest policies, management plans and their implementation;
  - e) establish training programmes for forest professionals involved in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of management plans;
2. RECOMMENDS that FAO, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA), cooperation agencies and other related organizations:
  - a) support the efforts of governments and communities to prepare, implement and monitor the execution of management plans;
  - b) promote the development of mechanisms for the recognition in management plans of the experience and interests of all those who inhabit forest ecosystems;
  - c) establish parameters, indicators and guidelines for the preparation, implementation and monitoring of plans for the management of non-timber forest products;

3. URGES IUCN members to consider the principles of this Recommendation in international fora such as the Commission for Sustainable Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and promote observance.

*Note. This Recommendation was adopted by consensus. The delegation of the State member Germany indicated that it had not participated in discussion of the Recommendation nor would it have participated in any voting. The delegations of the State members Norway and United States indicated that had there been a vote they would have abstained.*