

1.62 Illegal International Trade in Forest Products

NOTING that in many countries forest products including non-timber forest products are harvested and exported in violation of national and provincial laws and regulations, and of the recognized customary rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities;

RECOGNIZING that these activities are counter-productive to the attainment of sustainable forest management and result in a failure to obtain the funds critically needed for such management;

DEFINING the illegal international trade in forest products as the cross-border movement of forest products harvested, transported, bought or sold in violation of the laws of the products' country of origin (including laws recognizing the customary rights of indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities), or in violation of international agreements signed by the country of origin;

RECOGNIZING that resolving the illegal international trade problem is first and foremost in the hands of national governments, who are responsible for monitoring forest management, tracking forest products trade, and enforcing national laws, and in the hands of forest product corporations and professional trade organizations, who are responsible for internal trade monitoring mechanisms and codes of conduct;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that resolving the illegal international trade problem may also be facilitated through multilateral bodies and agreements such as CITES;

NOTING that additional mechanisms to help countries effectively monitor, track and curtail illegal trade are required in many countries as well as at regional and global levels;

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

1. CALLS UPON ALL IUCN members, States and government agencies, international organizations, corporate sector entities and trade associations cooperatively to support and promote:
 - a) a global assessment of the extent of the illegal international forest products trade;
 - b) the research and development of effective means of monitoring trade of forest products such as “chain of custody” in order to curtail illegal activities;
 - c) incentives for the active involvement of local communities in monitoring illegal international trade;
2. URGES the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forests to address the issue of illegal trade in forest products in its recommendations to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development.

Note. The use of the term “indigenous peoples” in this Recommendation shall not be construed as having any implications as regards the rights which may attach to that term in international law.