

## ITTC 32<sup>nd</sup> Session\*

### – Selected Decisions –

#### 2.

#### Civil Society Advisory Group

*The International Tropical Timber Council,*

**Recalling** Decision 9(XXVIII) on Enhancing Participation of Members of Civil Society in the Relevant Activities of the ITTO, which invited the establishment of open-ended Advisory Groups to contribute to the work of the Council;

**Noting** its concern that the views of Civil Society Organizations are still not well represented at Council sessions;

**Appreciating** the continuing contribution of Civil Society Organizations in the formulation of ITTO Guidelines, Expert Panels, Missions and other initiatives;

**Wishing** to increase the participation and inputs of Civil Society Organizations;

\* Bali, Indonesia, 13–18 May 2002. See also page 208.

**Recognizing** the valuable contributions to the ITTO made by the Trade Advisory Group (TAG);

**Recognizing** the contributions that Civil Society Organizations could make to the ITTO through their own advisory group;

**Welcoming** the agreement of Civil Society Organization representatives during this Session of the Council to form a Civil Society Advisory Group (CSAG);

#### **Decides to:**

1. Invite the CSAG to initiate its activities at the earliest date;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to publicize the launching of the CSAG, through the ITTO's website, the Tropical Forest Update, and other methods, as a means of attracting broader Civil Society participation in both the CSAG and the ITTO;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to explore with the CSAG opportunities for input and participation during Council Ses-

sions in a manner similar to those of the Trade Advisory Group (TAG);

4. Encourage the CSAG and the TAG to collaborate on activities, programmes and projects in support of the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006;

5. Invite the CSAG and the TAG to showcase examples of collaboration between Civil Society Organizations and forest concessionaires and industry, and further to consider how the ITTO could facilitate such cooperation in the field;

6. Invite the CSAG to organize a panel discussion, relevant to the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006, to be held during the Thirty-third Session of the Council; and

7. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member countries to meet the financial requirements of this Decision, not exceeding US\$50,000.00, to facilitate the participation of Civil Society Organizations in the CSAG panel discussion at the Thirty-third Session of the Council.

## 11.

### The Potential Role of Phased Approaches to Certification in Tropical Timber Producer Countries as a tool to Promote Sustainable Forest Management

#### *The International Tropical Timber Council,*

**Reaffirming** the commitment of Members to the process of advancing ITTO Objective 2000;

**Recalling** Decision 10(XXX) on Certification;

**Recognizing** that ITTO as an international organization should not endorse, create or adopt, or be perceived to endorse, any particular certification approach or scheme, including any accompanying standards developed for the purpose of certification;

**Noting** the Report on the ITTO International Workshop on Comparability and Equivalence of Forest Certification Schemes as contained in Document ITTC (XXXII)/10;

**Recognizing** forest certification as an important voluntary market-based tool to encourage and create incentives for sustainable forest management and improving market transparency;

**Underscoring** that certification schemes should be voluntary, non-discriminatory, transparent and market-oriented;

**Recognizing** that while the ITTO Criteria and Indicators were developed to assess progress towards sustainable forest management, performance standards would be required for the purposes of certification;

**Recognizing** the role of ITTO in promoting market access as provided for in the objectives of the ITTA, 1994, and the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006;

**Recognizing** the role of ITTO in improving transparency of the international timber market and promoting tropical timber from sustainably-managed sources as stipulated in the ITTO Yokohama Action Plan 2002-2006;

**Recognizing** the potential contribution of certification to sustainable forest management, including forest law enforcement and related trade;

**Recognizing** that many tropical timber producing countries have made considerable progress towards sustainable forest management, and that at the same time those countries account for a very small percentage of the coverage of certified forests around the world;

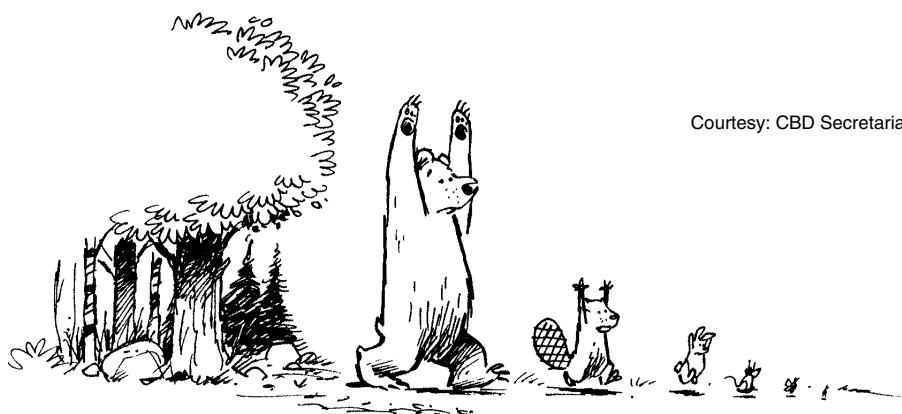
**Recognizing** that in many tropical timber countries there is a wide gap between the existing level of management and what is required by certification;

**Recognizing** that tropical timber countries face many institutional, social, human resource and financial constraints to achieve sustainable forest management;

**Recognizing** the potential role of regional consultations in advancing discussions on comparability and equivalence among certification schemes, and in assisting tropical timber producing countries to meet sustainable forest management standards and to achieve certification;

#### Decides to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to engage two consultants, one from a producer and the other from a consumer country to undertake a study on the potential of phased approaches to certification as a tool to promote sustainable forest management, as per the attached Terms of Reference;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to convene three regional workshops to disseminate and discuss the results and implications of the study, with recommendations to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council based on the attached Terms of Reference;
3. Request the Executive Director to facilitate improved understanding, information-sharing and dialogue between interested parties from both consumer and producer countries on these phased approaches;
4. Encourage Member Countries to support project proposals for national capacity building to engage in forest certification in producer Member Countries, including institutional strengthening, stakeholder participation, auditing systems, training and better public understanding of the role of certification as regards to sustainable forest management; and
5. Authorize the Executive Director to seek voluntary contributions from Member Countries to meet the financial requirements of this Decision, not exceeding US \$297,980.00.



Courtesy: CBD Secretariat

- b) Elaborate the concept and reflect the full range of views as regards to phased approaches to certification
- c) Identify existing models and initiatives on phased approaches to certification
- d) Analyse the elements and operations of the existing models and initiatives
- e) Collect and analyse information on market acceptance of the existing models and initiatives
- f) Identify key issues, potentials, risks, and constraints on possible designs and implementation of phased approaches
- g) Identify and elaborate on common elements and stages of phased approaches
- h) Prepare a preliminary report to present at the Thirty-third Session of the Council

- i) Taking into consideration comments and views of Member Countries and the Workshop participants, finalize the report and present to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council.

### Terms of Reference for the Workshops

The three Regional Workshops will be three days duration each and convened in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America between the Thirty-third and Thirty-fourth Sessions of the Council.

The purpose of the Workshops will be to disseminate and discuss results and implications of the study and comments from Member countries, and make recommendations to the Thirty-fourth Session of the Council.

The Secretariat, in extending invitations to participants, should seek to provide a balance of the following views at the Workshops:

- producer and consumer Member Countries
- forest owners and managers
- certification schemes
- environmental and social NGOs
- local communities and indigenous peoples
- buyers groups and consumer groups
- industry, traders and retailers

Priority for sponsorship should be given to participants from producer Member Countries.

## ANNEX

### Terms of Reference for Consultants

The consultants, one from a producer and the other from a consumer country, will undertake a study on the potential role of phased approaches to certification as a tool to promote sustainable forest management.

The study will include the following items:

- a) Consult with relevant parties, including buyers groups, consumer groups, industry, retailers, certifiers, certification schemes, forest owners and managers, governments, environmental and social NGOs, local communities, and indigenous peoples