



59th Session of the International Tropical Timber Council

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Why in News?

The 59th session of the **International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC)**, the governing body of the **International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)**, recently concluded with significant decisions shaping the future of **sustainable tropical forest management** and the trade of sustainably produced **tropical timber**.

What are the Key Outcomes of the 59th session of the ITTC?

- The countries agreed to endorse **eight projects** related to **sustainable forest management** and related objectives.
- The session also approved and adopted a budget of USD 7.1 million for the coming financial year 2024-25.
- The council also approved a trial measure that will allow **ineligible members to submit project proposals and concept notes**.
 - Members who have **fallen behind on their financial contributions** and are thus ineligible will be allowed to submit one project and concept note for every two years of arrears paid.
- The Council also adopted the **work programme for 2024-25**, which emphasizes collaboration with the members of Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners for effective implementation.

What is the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)?

- **About:**
 - The ITTO is an **intergovernmental organization** promoting the sustainable management and conservation of tropical forests and the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests.
 - ITTO was established under the **International Tropical Timber Agreement 1983 (ITTA 1983)**, negotiated under the auspices of the [United Nations Conference on Trade and Development](#).
 - It is governed by ITTC, a group that meets at least **once a year** to discuss a wide-ranging agenda aimed at promoting **sustainable tropical forest management (SFM)** and the trade of sustainably produced tropical timber
- **Members:**
 - **It has 75 countries, including India.**
 - Its members manage about **80% of the world's tropical forests** and are responsible for **90% of the global tropical timber trade**.
- **Functions:**
 - ITTO develops internationally agreed policy guidelines and norms to encourage SFM and sustainable tropical timber industries and trade.
 - Assists tropical member countries to adapt such guidelines and norms to local circumstances and to implement them in the field through projects and other activities.
 - Collects, analyzes and disseminates data on the production and trade of tropical timber.

Promotes sustainable tropical timber supply chains.

- **Headquarters:** Yokohama, Japan.

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