



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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Item 26.1 of the provisional agenda

### FOREST BIODIVERSITY: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF WORK

#### *Proposed joint activities between the Department of Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

### INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have been working together on a range of topics related to forests and forestry, particularly after the adoption of decision VI/22 of the Conference of the Parties and its annex, the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity. Within the framework of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the FAO has collaborated since 2002 with the Convention on Biological Diversity on clarifying the concepts of the ecosystem approach of the Convention and sustainable forest management (paragraph 19 (a) of decision VI/22), <sup>1/</sup> on enhancing the integration of non-timber forest resources in forest inventorying <sup>2/</sup> (paragraph 43 of the same decision), and, most notably, in the framework of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting. <sup>3/</sup>

2. In order to investigate further opportunities for collaboration and to formulate a set of joint activities between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the FAO Forestry

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<sup>1/</sup> Sustainable Forest Management and the Ecosystem Approach: two concepts, one goal. FAO Forestry Department Working Paper FM 25. December 2003. Rome, Italy.

<sup>2/</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/14. Forest biological diversity: integration of non-timber forest resources in forest inventory and management.

<sup>3/</sup> [www.fao.org/forestry/site/6308/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/6308/en).

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Department, in the context of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two organizations, a one-day meeting was held at FAO headquarters in Rome on 20 September 2005 with financial support from the Government of the Netherlands. The present note contains, for the information of the Conference of the Parties, a synthesis of the main outcomes of the meeting and that include specific areas of collaboration.

3. The meeting opened with a presentation by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on progress in the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity and reporting requirements related to the global 2010 biodiversity target and related indicators. A number of topical sessions where specific opportunities for collaboration followed, including on: (i) monitoring, assessment and reporting, including FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 and its linkages with the fourth national report on progress in achieving the CBD 2010 biodiversity target; (ii) national forest programmes (NFPs) and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs); (iii) cross-sectoral planning; (iv) participation and contributions to meetings and publications; and (v) activities of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, in particular those aimed at streamlining forest-related reporting. These are described in detail below.

## **TOPICS AND ACTIVITIES IDENTIFIED FOR ENHANCED COLLABORATION**

### ***A. Monitoring, assessment and reporting***

4. The expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity will undergo its in-depth review at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It was agreed that the latest information from FAO FRA 2005, and other relevant FAO thematic studies, as well as documentation of national forest programmes could be used as a way of reporting on progress in implementation. More specifically, additional information from FAO member countries for assessing progress in implementing the forest work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity may be needed. In this context, possibilities for accessing the FAO FRA network of national correspondents were discussed in order to provide some of this information, in collaboration with national focal points for the Convention.

5. In the context of reporting on progress in achieving the global 2010 biodiversity target, and related forest sub-targets (contained in SBSTTA recommendation XI/7), it was agreed that there are clear opportunities for close collaboration with the FAO FRA 2010 reporting framework. It was further agreed that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would provide inputs to the Kotka V Expert Consultation to take place in June 2006, outlining specific forest-related joint reporting requirements towards FRA 2010 with the aim of minimizing reporting burden to countries through streamlining information requests.

### ***B. National forest programmes/national biodiversity strategies and action plans***

6. It was agreed that FAO support to national forest programmes (National Forest Programme Facility 4/) is well placed to absorb information requirements for the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Preliminary discussions were held on the need to articulate specific activities contained in the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity and national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and how these can be further integrated within national forest programmes.

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4/ [www.fao.org/forestry/site/30766/en](http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/30766/en)

7. The National Forest Programme Facility hosted by FAO plans to develop a series of training modules, being one of these on how international commitments can be accommodated in the development of national forest programmes. It was also agreed to collaborate in ensuring that relevant aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity are adequately covered in this particular training module.

8. Finally, it was also agreed to explore options on how to stimulate the dialogue between national focal points for the Convention and national forest programme focal points (and relevant stakeholders) as a way of enhancing implementation.

### ***C. Cross-sectoral planning***

9. The Forestry Department of FAO plans to hold capacity-building workshops for cross-sectoral planning in Latin America and Asia in 2006-2007. In light of the request made by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 19 (c) of decision VI/22, where the Executive Secretary is requested to develop a toolkit on how to promote cross-sectoral integration for minimizing negative impacts on forest biodiversity (a preliminary report is contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/INF/13), it was agreed that participation by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at these workshops would be advisable. It was also agreed to explore possibilities on how to develop the toolkit.

### ***D. Participation and contributions to meetings and publications***

10. Under this topic, collaboration between the Forestry Department of FAO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would focus on attending the FAO regional forestry commissions in order to report on progress made in the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity at the regional and/or national level and also to receive feedback from countries in order to identify further opportunities on its implementation and the practical linkages to national forestry programmes. Further, the collaboration between Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO, as outlined in the present note, could also be presented and discussed.

11. Mutual interest was also expressed for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to contribute an essay to the upcoming FAO's State of the World's Forests publication (2007). A possible topic could be forests and the 2010 biodiversity target.

### ***E. Collaborative partnership on forests/Streamlining forest-related reporting***

12. In the context of the ongoing work of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, it was agreed for further enhancing the provision of updated information regarding national reports, thematic reports, and national focal points to the web-based portal <sup>5/</sup> It was also agreed that the progress made by the Task Force should be periodically reported to the constituencies of the Convention on Biological Diversity through side-events.

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