



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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Item 4.3 of the provisional agenda\*

### **FOREST BIODIVERSITY: COLLABORATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS, AND WITH THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (DECISION IX/5)**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

At its ninth meeting, in decision IX/5, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to explore, together with the Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, possibilities for developing a work plan with targeted joint activities between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); and to continue the cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations on the monitoring of forest biodiversity and on clarifying the definitions of forest and forest types; and to report back to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice. In summary, this note contains:

(a) Information on a memorandum of understanding (see annex II below), signed between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFF on 15 December 2009, pursuant to decisions VI/20, VI/22, and IX/5, and pursuant to UNFF resolution 8/1, outlining areas of collaboration up to December 2011, and calling for the identification, development and implementation of targeted joint activities; and

(b) A report on collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and other relevant organizations since the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the monitoring of forest biodiversity, pursuant to decision IX/5.

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## SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt a decision along the following lines:

### *The Conference of the Parties*

#### *Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)*

1. Welcomes resolution 8/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests on forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs;

2. Welcomes and supports the Memorandum of Understanding between the two secretariats as signed on 15 December 2009, which, among others, aims to identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities; and invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to support joint activities under the Memorandum of Understanding as outlined in this decision; and invites donors to provide funding for a joint staff position and activity funds through the Voluntary Trust Fund of the Convention;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Based on priorities identified in its decision IX/5 and taking into account recent developments, in particular resolution 8/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests, identify and implement, in consultation with the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests, targeted joint activities to support Parties, in particular developing countries, in the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity, including through:

- (i) Further capacity-building on forest biodiversity and climate change, building on the UNFF/CBD workshop<sup>1</sup> held in Singapore, from 2 to 5 September 2009, taking into account recent developments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change;
- (ii) Further collaboration with the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration and other cooperation mechanisms on restoring forest ecosystems, paying particular attention to genetic diversity;
- (iii) Streamlining forest-related reporting, based on the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting;

and report on progress to [the Conference of the Parties] at its [...] meeting;

(b) Following the outcome of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2009, with regard to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD-plus), collaborate with the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the World Bank, the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the other members of CPF to support the development of appropriate biodiversity safeguards, and safeguards for the rights of indigenous and local communities, including options for monitoring, verifying, and reporting on biodiversity benefits and benefits to indigenous and

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<sup>1</sup> The report of the meeting is available as document UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-FBD&CC/1/2 at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/for/wscb-fbdcc-01/official/wscb-fbdcc-01-02-en.doc>.

local communities of REDD-plus activities, and submit the results to the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

*Cooperation with FAO and relevant organizations*

4. Welcomes the work of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in compiling the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, which will provide updated and expanded information on forest biodiversity;

5. Takes note of the findings of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, and continue to work towards improved monitoring of forest-related biodiversity;

Recognizes the importance of forest genetic diversity for sustainable use, including in the context of addressing climate change and maintaining forest ecosystems resilience; and in this context welcomes the preparation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the country-driven report *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*;

6. Invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to:

(a) Further improve coordination and collaboration at national and regional levels between national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with regard to all relevant decisions, including implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity (decisions VI/22 and IX/5) and issues related to the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of forest genetic resources;

(b) Support the preparation of the country-driven first report *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, including by preparing country reports and reports from international organizations;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to:

(a) Organize a meeting of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, with the aim to clarify the definitions of forest and forest types that reflect forest biodiversity at the level appropriate for reporting and monitoring, in view of further improving the biodiversity monitoring component of the Global Forest Resources Assessment and other relevant processes and initiatives;

(b) Collaborate with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*, including by participating in relevant sessions of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources.

## **I. COLLABORATION AND JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS SECRETARIAT**

1. Since the establishment of UNFF in October 2000 by United Nations Economic and Social (ECOSOC) resolution 2000/35, several decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Forum and its secretariat, and with CPF, which was established in April 2001, based on the same resolution. In paragraph 5 of decision VI/20, the Conference of the Parties “recognizes the importance of collaboration with the United Nations Forum on Forests on issues related to forest biological diversity and encourages practical cooperation at the level of the respective secretariats”; subsequent decisions have added further emphasis and specificity to the requested collaboration between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNFF (see annex I below for a summary of decisions under the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding collaboration with UNFF). In paragraph 3 (d) of decision IX/5, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to “Explore, together with the Director of the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, possibilities for developing a work plan with targeted joint activities between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests by identifying commonalities and complementarities of the respective work programmes and submit the results for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice”;

2. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has worked with the secretariat of UNFF and with CPF on several joint activities and initiatives since 2000. This note focuses only on the collaboration between 1 June 2008 and 1 January 2010, pursuant to decision IX/5. Further information on the collaboration with the UNFF secretariat between 2001 and 2008 is available in the quarterly reports on the activities of the Secretariat<sup>2</sup> of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in other documents, for example in the in-depth review of the programme of work on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3).

3. The Executive Secretary and other Secretariat staff participated in the eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests held in New York, from 20 April to 1 May 2009, and the Executive Secretary delivered a keynote address to the Forum on 21 April 2009, in which he outlined decision IX/5 including suggested activities on the development of a joint work plan with targeted joint activities. A side-event was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on 29 April 2009, during the meeting where both the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNFF secretariat outlined the progress on developing elements for joint targeted activities, including in relation to the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011.

4. The United Nations Forum on Forests, at its eighth session, adopted resolution 8/1 on “Forests in a changing environment, enhanced cooperation and cross-sectoral policy and programme coordination, regional and subregional inputs”, requesting the UNFF secretariat “to explore with the secretariats of the Rio conventions a format and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and develop targeted joint activities related to sustainable forest management, the four global objectives on forests and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, including in the context of developments in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011, and report progress to the Forum at its ninth session.”

5. Pursuant, *inter alia*, to decisions IV/20, VI/22 and IX/5 (see annex I for a list of decisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding collaboration with UNFF and its secretariat), and based on the discussions with the UNFF secretariat as outlined above, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity drafted a Memorandum of Understanding and submitted it to the UNFF secretariat for consideration.

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<sup>2</sup> Cf. [www.cbd.int/secretariat/qr/](http://www.cbd.int/secretariat/qr/)

6. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 15 December 2009, as annexed to this note, in the language in which it was signed (annex II).<sup>3</sup> The agreement calls for the identification, development and implementation of activities to address forest biodiversity aspects of sustainable forest management, and also foresees the secondment of a temporary staff position, based at the UNFF secretariat in New York, to carry out joint activities. The secretariats of UNFF and the Convention on Biological Diversity are currently working towards securing funding for the joint staff and related activity funds.

## **II. COLLABORATION WITH FAO AND OTHER RELEVANT ORGANIZATIONS ON MONITORING FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLARIFYING DEFINITIONS OF FORESTS AND FOREST TYPES**

7. In paragraph 3 (g) of decision IX/5, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to “continue the cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations on the monitoring of forest biodiversity, and on clarifying the definitions of forest and forest types that reflect forest biodiversity at the level appropriate for reporting and monitoring the status of forest biodiversity, building on the existing concepts and definitions provided by Parties and members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations and regional criteria and indicator processes and report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”

8. The Global Forest Resources Assessment, which has been carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since 1946, is the most comprehensive and authoritative global assessment on the extent and quality of forest resources and as such, it is a key reference point for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in response to this request in terms of forest biodiversity monitoring (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3).

9. The Programme Officer for forest biodiversity of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is a member of the Advisory Group of the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 (FRA 2010). It is a long-term arrangement with meetings taking place annually. The Advisory Group is tasked to review and make recommendations aimed to strengthen existing institutional networks, to make future forest resources assessments increasingly user-oriented, demand-driven, and to it more closely linked with other international processes. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has participated in two Advisory Group meetings since May 2008: on 17-18 March 2009 in Rome and on 22 October 2009 on the margins of the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires. At both meetings, the secretariat brought decision IX/5 to the attention of the other Advisory Group members and FAO staff. The meetings resulted, amongst others, in improved reporting formats for FRA 2010.<sup>4</sup>

10. On 23 November 2009, the Secretariat submitted to the Advisory Group members and to FAO staff additional information in relation to decision IX/5, including a global survey of the status of forest protected areas;<sup>5</sup> a scientific article on links between forest definitions as used in FRA 2010 and efforts to reduce forest degradation under the Convention on Biological Diversity and in the context of UNFCCC; and an informal proposal to take up the issue of forest classifications and the definitions of forests and forest types at the next meeting of the expert consultations in support of the Global Forest Resources Assessments, presumably at the beginning of 2011.

11. In 2002, the CPF established a Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting. The objective of the CPF Task Force is to propose ways to reduce the forest-related reporting burden, for example, through reducing and streamlining reporting requests, synchronizing reporting cycles, harmonizing data collection methods and increasing data comparability and compatibility, and facilitating the accessibility and flows of existing information.

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<sup>3</sup> Cf. also [www.cbd.int/agreements](http://www.cbd.int/agreements) for a signed electronic copy of the MoU.

<sup>4</sup> For details cf. [www.fao.org/forestry/fra/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/en/)

<sup>5</sup> Cf. CPF web-page on Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting [www.fao.org/forestry/7692/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/7692/en/)

12. The Task Force was composed of the following CPF member organizations, with inputs from other CPF members: FAO; the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the UNCCD secretariat; the UNFCCC secretariat; the UNFF secretariat; and UNEP, through its World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (WCMC). By the end of 2005, the Task Force had met five times and organized one broader expert meeting. It produced a report on opportunities and challenges for harmonizing forest-related reporting, with one of the main opportunities identified being the harmonization of forest-related definitions.<sup>6</sup>

13. Since 2005, the Task Force has not undertaken any significant activities, with one notable exception: in March 2009, the CPF established an initiative to harmonize the definition of forest degradation, under the coordination of FAO. The initiative took stock of all existing definitions, and organized an expert workshop, from 7-11 September 2009 in Rome, to progress towards a harmonized definition on forest degradation.<sup>7</sup> Given the importance of harmonizing forest-related reporting (which has been expressed in several decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including a request to the Executive Secretary to continue collaboration with relevant organizations to this end in decision VII/25 B), it is suggested, as agreed to by CPF members at their CPF strategy meeting in July 2009, to revitalize the Task Force as a platform for collaboration on decision IX/5, paragraph 3(g).

14. A significant recent development has been the adoption by the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC of methodological guidance for activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of carbon stocks (REDD-plus). In its final report,<sup>8</sup> the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change under the Convention on Biological Diversity raised concerns regarding the applicability of sustainable forest management to the implementation of efforts under UNFCCC to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD), with implications for the monitoring of forest biodiversity. With reference to decision IX/5, further clarification of the conceptual links between the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, and sustainable forest management (SFM), in particular with regards to primary forests and the role of conservation is required. Furthermore, the need for REDD-plus activities to provide biodiversity benefits, and benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities, has been recognized by UNFCCC, however, the details for monitoring, verifying and reporting on the extent of these benefits are not yet developed.

15. A further significant recent development in forest biodiversity monitoring is the decision of the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), with support from the FAO Committee on Forestry to undertake the first-ever comprehensive assessment of forest genetic diversity, resulting in the country-driven report *The State of the World's Forests Genetic Resources* (SOW-FGR). The in-depth review of the programme of work on forest biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3) identified work on forest genetic resources as an important field to be further developed, in particular regarding the contributions of genetic diversity to adaptation to the impacts of climate change.

16. CGRFA, at its twelfth session, held from 19 to 23 October 2009, made significant progress with regard to forest genetic resources.<sup>9</sup> The Commission requested FAO to prepare the SOW-FGR for consideration at its fourteenth regular session (in 2013); endorsed the outline of the SOW-FGR's chapters as contained in *Appendix E* of the CGRFA-12 report; agreed to establish an Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on FGR (ITWGFR) to, *inter alia*, review the situation and issues related to biodiversity in the area of forest genetic resources and advise CGRFA on these matters; requested relevant international and regional organizations to participate in the preparatory process for the report; and called

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<sup>6</sup> Cf. [www.fao.org/forestry/7692/en/](http://www.fao.org/forestry/7692/en/)

<sup>7</sup> The report of the meeting is available at <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/degradation/en/>

<sup>8</sup> Available as CBD Technical Series 41 *Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. Report of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change*, cf. [www.cbd.int/ts](http://www.cbd.int/ts).

<sup>9</sup> The report of the Twelfth Regular Session of the CGRFA is available at: <http://www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/cgrfa-meetings/cgrfa-comm/en/>

for assistance and capacity-building in developing countries for preparation of country reports. The CGRFA stressed the importance of close collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participates in the Expert Panel for the SOW-FGR. Given the importance of the preparation of the SOW-FGR for biodiversity monitoring, and for the further implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity, it is suggested to intensify collaboration with FAO on this topic (see suggested recommendations). A joint work plan between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and FAO is under preparation, which includes joint activities to support the preparation of *The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources*.

17. The Secretariat has not received sufficient financial resources to fully comply with paragraph 3 (g) of decision IX/5. Out of an overall budget of US\$ 620,000 for identified and approved resource requirements of the Secretariat from the special voluntary trust fund (BE) for activities on forest biodiversity (decision IX/34, table 3), which included funds for a global workshop on forest biodiversity monitoring and classification of related terms, only US\$ 206,318 had been received as of 1 January 2010. No pledges or actual voluntary contributions for activities responding to paragraph 3 (g) of decision IX/5 on collaboration with FAO on forest biodiversity monitoring and for the proposed global workshop had been received as of that date.

*Annex I*

**EXCERPTS FROM DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS (UNFF) AND ITS SECRETARIAT**

<i>Decision V/4: Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for forest biological diversity</i>	Noted the proposed establishment and coordinating role of UNFF
<i>Decision VI/7: Identification, monitoring, indicators and assessments</i>	Requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with regional and international initiatives, including UNFF, on the development of forest-related indicators
<i>Decision VI/8: Global Taxonomy Initiative</i>	Listed UNFF as an actor in the planned activity on forest biological diversity (Annex on the programme of work for the global taxonomy initiative)
<i>Decision VI/20: Cooperation with other organizations, initiatives and conventions</i>	Recognized the importance of collaboration with UNFF on issues related to forest biological diversity and encouraged practical cooperation at the level of the respective secretariats
<i>Decision VI/22: Forest biological diversity</i>	<p>Requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with UNFF secretariat, amongst other organizations, on the ecosystem approach; on the identification of common objectives in the context of national forest programmes and national biodiversity strategies and action plans; on protected areas; on sustainable use and benefit-sharing; and on minimizing the reporting burden for Parties.</p> <p>Invited Parties to coordinate implementation of CBD and UNFF on national and international levels; to foster cooperation and synergies between the expanded work programme on forest biological diversity under CBD and the Multi-Year Programme of Work and Plan of Action of UNFF;</p> <p>Requested the Executive Secretary to implement collaborative actions for selected items in the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity, in collaboration with the Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat of UNFF;</p> <p>Encouraged the Executive Secretary to coordinate and seek synergies between CBD, UNFF and the members of CPF, including establishment of memoranda of understanding, as appropriate, between CBD and the other members of CPF.</p>
<i>Decision VII/1: Forest biological diversity</i>	Invited the Coordinator and Head of the Secretariat of UNFF to facilitate the implementation of related activities under CBD and UNFF, and avoid duplication of effort
<i>Decision VII/2: The biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands</i>	Listed UNFF as a potential collaborator for the implementation of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands



<i>Decision VII/4: Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems</i>	Requested the Executive Secretary to develop with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention a proposal on streamlining and improving the effectiveness of national reporting on inland water ecosystems, taking into account the work of the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting
<i>Decision VII/11: Ecosystem approach</i>	Requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with the Coordinator and Head of the UNFF Secretariat and members of the CPF in order to further integrate the concepts of ecosystem approach and sustainable forest management
<i>Decision VII/15: Biodiversity and climate change</i>	Noted that the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on biodiversity and climate change had been transmitted to UNFF
<i>Decision VII/28: Protected areas (Articles 8 (a) to (e))</i>	Identified UNFF as a partner organization in facilitating conservation and sustainable use through protected areas
<i>Decision VIII/19: Forest biological diversity: implementation of the programme of work</i>	Noted the outcomes of UNFF-6 as a positive step towards achieving sustainable forest management, and welcomed the four shared Global Objectives on Forests
<i>Decision IX/5: Forest biodiversity</i>	<p>Requested the Executive Secretary to (a) Facilitate, as requested, in close cooperation with existing international, regional and subregional processes, initiatives and organizations, such as the Secretariat of UNFF, FAO, the International Tropical Timber Organization, and other members of CPF, regional, subregional and/or thematic workshops to support Parties in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity;</p> <p>(c) Enhance dissemination and exchange of information, and collaboration between the Secretariat of CBD, the Secretariat of the UNFF and other members of CPF and other relevant organizations and processes;</p> <p>(d) Explore, together with the Director of the Secretariat of UNFF, possibilities for developing a work plan with targeted joint activities between the secretariats of CBD and UNFF by identifying commonalities and complementarities of the respective work programmes and submit the results for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice;</p> <p>Urged Parties to increase cross-sectoral cooperation and initiatives at all levels, to help carry out a coordinated implementation of both the programme of work on forest biodiversity under CBD, and the decisions set by UNFF, including the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, for the achievement of the 2010 target and the four Global Objectives on Forests, with the involvement of indigenous and local communities and other relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.</p>
<i>Decision IX/16: Biodiversity and climate change</i>	Invited Parties to involve focal points from UNFF and relevant forest related and other conventions in discussions on relevant issues, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as through afforestation and reforestation, and the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity and other relevant issues.

*Annex II***MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FOREST AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CBD (2009-2011)***(English only)***1. Preamble**

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), (hereafter called the Secretariats);

Recalling the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 62/98 on 17 December 2007, which offers an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation to implement sustainable forest management (SFM);

Also recalling UNFF's role in facilitating the implementation of the Forest Instrument within the context of its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2007-2015, to advance the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and achieve progress towards the four global objectives on forests;

Recalling the adoption of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD POW) at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2002 in decision IV/22, and also recalling COP decision IX/5 of May 2008 in which Parties are urged to strengthen implementation of the programme of work;

Recalling decision IX/5 in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to explore options for a work plan with targeted joint activities with the Director of UNFF Secretariat; and UNFF Resolution 8/1, requesting UNFF Secretariat to explore with the secretariats of the Rio conventions a format and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and develop targeted joint activities related to SFM, as well as the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011;

Recognizing the advantage in identifying a basic format for collaboration and cooperation, focused on guiding principles and fundamental elements, in accordance with the respective mandates and activities of the two Secretariats;

Bearing in mind that the successful implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of appropriate resources;

Noting that a joint format between the Secretariats would enhance the support that could be provided towards the efforts of governments in implementing the Forest Instrument and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;

Have reached the following understanding:

**2. Objective**

This Memorandum of Understanding is aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Forest Instrument and the UNFF Multi-Year Programme of Work and the programme of work under the Convention on Biological Diversity and at promoting joint activities related to the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the 2011 International Year of Forests (IYF).

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### **3. Purpose**

The key purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to:

- (a) Identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity between the Secretariats, with involvement of other relevant organizations.
- (b) Facilitate information exchange between the Secretariats.
- (c) Support preparations for the seamless bridging of the close of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and the launch in 2011 of the International Year of Forests, including the development and implementation of conceptual and organizational links between both international years, and the organization of joint events;

### **4. Focus of the work on forests and biodiversity**

Areas of focus could include:

- Organizing joint activities during the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and International Year of Forests in 2011
- Promoting cooperation with other sectors
- Supporting regional collaboration and South-South Cooperation
- Examining opportunities for reporting

### **5. Duration and Timeline**

A report on the first phase of implementation (2009 – 2010) will be presented to UNFF at its ninth session (UNFF9 in January 2011). The second phase of implementation (2011) will be presented to UNFF at its tenth session (UNFF10 in 2013) and to the Convention on Biological Diversity, pending outcomes of the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (18-29 October 2010).

The Memorandum of Understanding will end on 31 December 2011, with possible extension if mutually agreed.

### **6. Resource Mobilization**

The Secretariats should regularly consult with each other to determine the availability of resources required for implementing the activities under this Memorandum of Understanding and the most equitable way of meeting such expenditures, if any, and, if resources are not available, the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources.

The Secretariats have agreed to launch a new type of collaboration through the following arrangement (subject to the availability of financial resources):

1. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity shall loan to UNFF Secretariat, on a non-reimbursable basis, a staff member to perform the functions of Joint Programme Officer, as specified in the attached Terms of Reference for an initial period of two years;
2. This arrangement can be extended, subject to availability of funds and consent by the parties involved;
3. The Secretariats will review the effectiveness of this arrangement on an annual basis and decide on necessary steps to keep it dynamic and efficient;

4. This agreement is in accordance with the Inter-agency agreement concerning secondment or Loan of staff among the organizations applying the United Nations Common system of salaries and allowances.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall become effective on the date of signature below.

**Signature:**

**Ahmed Djoghlaif**  
**Executive Secretary, CBD**  
**Date: 15 December 2009**

**Jan L. McAlpine**  
**Director, UNFF Secretariat**  
**Date: 15 December 2009**