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1 October 2010

NOTIFICATION

Results of the Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, Nairobi, September 2010

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you about the results of the Global Expert Workshop on Biodiversity Benefits of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 20 to 23 September 2010.

The workshop was convened by the CBD Secretariat in collaboration with the UN REDD Programme with generous support from the government of Germany. As you are aware, the objective of the meeting was to support the efforts of Parties in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries in the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in a way that contributes to the implementation of the CBD.

The main results of the workshop are presented in the attached co-chairs' summary, also available online as part of the workshop report (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EWREDD-01>). The results highlight that REDD has the potential to deliver multiple benefits for biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities. They acknowledge that such benefits are already being realized in many countries that are taking REDD activities forward. The results also underline the key role of national governments in ensuring multiple benefits, for example, through elaborating integrated REDD national plans, including effective cross-sectoral coordination and harmonization of relevant policies and laws. I hope you will find the results of the workshop useful and would be grateful if you could disseminate them to your constituency.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

Attachment

To: CBD National Focal Points, SBSTTA Focal Points, CHM Focal Points, POWPA Focal Points, Indigenous and Local Community Organizations, other Relevant Organizations

CO-CHAIRS SUMMARY

1. If REDD-plus¹ is successful at reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and promoting forest conservation, it will have significant and unprecedented benefits for biodiversity.
2. A well designed REDD-plus mechanism also has the potential to deliver significant benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities.
3. Both biodiversity and the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities are necessary for the success of REDD-plus. The permanent storage of carbon depends on well-functioning and resilient forest ecosystems, and on indigenous and local community participation and ownership.
4. Multiple benefits of REDD-plus, such as biodiversity benefits and benefits for indigenous peoples and local communities, are already being realized in many countries that are taking REDD-plus activities forward, e.g. through mapping exercises and through developing integrated REDD-plus national plans.
5. At this stage, the biggest risk to biodiversity and indigenous peoples and local communities from REDD-plus is that a well-designed REDD-plus mechanism is not agreed upon and successfully implemented.
6. Other specific risks for biodiversity identified by the meeting include:
 - (a) The conversion of natural forests to plantations and other land uses of low biodiversity value and low resilience; and the introduction of growing of biofuel crops;
 - (b) Displacement of deforestation and forest degradation to areas of lower carbon value and high biodiversity value;
 - (c) Increased pressure on non-forest ecosystems with high biodiversity value;
 - (d) Afforestation in areas of high biodiversity value.
7. Other specific risks of REDD-plus for indigenous peoples and local communities include:
 - (a) The loss of traditional territories and restriction of land and natural resource rights;
 - (b) Lack of tangible livelihood benefits to indigenous peoples and local communities and lack of equitable benefit sharing;
 - (c) Exclusion from designing and implementation of policies and measures;
 - (d) Loss of traditional ecological knowledge.
8. Safeguards, if designed and implemented appropriately, will reduce the risks and enhance the potential benefits of REDD-plus, for example by ensuring that conversion of natural forests is avoided, and ensuring full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities based on the

¹ In this report, REDD-plus refers to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. As negotiations under the UNFCCC are ongoing, acronyms within the co-chairs summary are used for the purpose of shortening the text, without any attempt to pre-empt or pre-judge ongoing or future negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Plurinational State of Bolivia expressed its reservation to the use of the acronym REDD-plus in the co-chairs summary and refers to this mechanism as 'forest-related activities', considering that a) forests are not only important for emission reduction but they also have other multiple benefits as expressed in the co-chairs' summary and b) in accordance with CBD decision IX/5 the mandate for this workshop refers to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

9. Action for multiple benefits needs to be taken at several levels. National governments play the key role in ensuring multiple benefits through the implementation of REDD-plus. National plans and national approaches benefit from the integration of climate change, biodiversity, and development objectives and strategies. This requires effective cross-sectoral coordination and harmonization of relevant policies and laws (agriculture, energy, environment, forests, biodiversity, and others), and integrated land use planning at the national scale.

10. Successful implementation of REDD-plus is dependent on transparent and effective national governance structures.

11. The CBD can support the implementation of REDD-plus through its programmes of work and its biodiversity monitoring efforts, including by:

(a) Encouraging the Parties to maximize the benefits for biodiversity, for example through prioritizing the conservation of natural forests;

(b) Supporting the work of the UNFCCC to operationalize safeguards²;

(c) Developing a framework for monitoring the impacts of REDD-plus on biodiversity.

12. Capacity building efforts across all levels founded on comprehensive national self-capacity needs assessments, as well as information sharing, are needed in order to achieve multiple benefits of REDD-plus, including through coordinated efforts of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other relevant organizations.

13. Identifying and realizing multiple benefits can be supported through the application of:

(a) Spatially explicit tools, such as maps and ecological gap analyses, to identify synergies and tradeoffs among climate change, biodiversity, and social issues;

(b) The results of the The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) process;

(c) Social and environmental standards for REDD-plus;

(d) The recommendations of the CBD second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change.³

14. Key research and development needs in the context of REDD-plus multiple benefits include:

(a) Analysis of key drivers of biodiversity loss due to deforestation and forest degradation at the national and local level;

(b) The conditions for effective and equitable distribution mechanisms;

(c) Criteria and indicators for monitoring multiple benefits and safeguards;

(d) Spatially explicit support tools/maps, including information on ecosystem services;

(e) Socio-economic analyses of implementing REDD-plus considering the full value of forests and multiple benefits, recognizing that there are intrinsic values that cannot be monetarized;

(f) Reviewing and improving national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) to reflect climate change issues;

(g) Further collaborative work on the definitions on forests and forest types.

² Without prejudging ongoing or future negotiations.

³ CBD Technical Series 41: *Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*, available at www.cbd.int/ts

15. The workshop participants requested the Secretariat to make the workshop results available to the national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To further advance the results of this meeting, the experts recommended that the CBD could explore possibilities for a technical workshop organized jointly by the CBD and UNFCCC Secretariat on how the CBD can support REDD-plus safeguards, without prejudice to the negotiations.