



PRESS RELEASE

In the Republic of Korea, the Rio Conventions Pavilion will showcase actions that address the problems of land degradation, biodiversity loss and climate change

Montreal, 13 October 2011 – As governments meet in the Republic of Korea to address the challenges of land degradation under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, global actors will meet at the Rio Conventions Pavilion to communicate their coordinated actions to stop land degradation, and save biodiversity while meeting the challenges of climate change.

The Pavilion was first held in 2010 at the Nagoya biodiversity summit in Japan, with a subsequent programme at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico. Organized by the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), with the support of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Rio Conventions Pavilion is a forum where global actors communicate the benefits of coordinated implementation of these three global treaties on environment and sustainable development.

This most recent exhibition of the Rio Conventions Pavilion will feature presentations that show the many facets of sustainable development, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, food security and sustainable land management, poverty reduction and the integration of gender into environmental policy.

The activities of the Pavilion in the Republic of Korea have been made possible with the generous support of the Government of that country.

The programme runs for almost two weeks and includes:

- Sustainable forest management and REDD-plus: contributing to the implementation of the Rio conventions
- Ecosystem-based approaches to climate change: addressing adaptation and mitigation
- Sustainable land and water management
- Food security and combating hunger through sustainable land management
- Gender and the Rio conventions
- Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable land management
- Poverty reduction and the Rio conventions.

A high-level event that celebrates the United Nations Decades on Biodiversity and Land Degradation, and featuring the participation of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Korea, will be held on 18 October.

Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, said: “In real life, nature does not function in compartments, but humans are prone to working in silos to manage it. But there are simple ways to transcend this dilemma. For instance, sustainable land management is a sure vaccine against many human-induced environmental diseases, including climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. As combating land degradation is a contact for synergetic action, so is the Rio Conventions Pavilion during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.”

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said: “In our work, we must avoid artificial divisions and separation of the issues. On the ground, for the citizens of the world, saving biodiversity, conserving our soils and meeting the challenges of climate change are frequently one and the same. The Rio Conventions Pavilion shows policymakers and governments what this unity of purposes means.”

Monique Barbut, GEF Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson, said: “The GEF representation in the Rio Conventions Pavilion is a testament of the strong institutional network and partnerships we have created to support work of the Conventions. The sessions at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Desertification will showcase the diversity of approaches and innovations in the GEF network to foster synergy in implementation of Convention actions by countries.”

The programme of activities for the Pavilion is available at: www.riopavilion.org/

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 160 countries plus the European Union have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal, Canada. For more information visit: www.cbd.int.

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