



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



2010 International Year of Biodiversity

## **STATEMENT**

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**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**XXIII IUFRO World Congress**

**Seoul, Republic of Korea  
23-28 August 2010**



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Life in harmony, into the future  
いのちの共生を、未来へ  
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear colleagues,

2010 is one of the most important years ever for biodiversity and therefore for the forest agenda, too. Our challenge in the coming months is nothing less than to lay the groundwork for **halting and reversing the trend of deforestation and forest degradation; restoring intact forests world-wide; and maintaining the biodiversity of the world's forests for present and future generations**. This is what the New York biodiversity Summit is all about and this is what the Aichi Nagoya Biodiversity Summit is all about.

In October the tenth meeting of the **Conference of the Parties**, which **take place in Nagoya with the expected participation of more than 10,000 delegates representing the 193 Parties to the Convention and their partners**. This historical meeting will be preceded on 22 September by the High Level Event of the 65<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly with participation of heads of state and government and exclusively devoted to biodiversity. For the first time in the history of the United Nations Organization the 192 leaders of the world will have a unique opportunity in shaping the new biodiversity agenda and provide leadership for the Nagoya Summit. Indeed in Nagoya a new strategic plan for the convention for 2011-2020 will be adopted with the participation and engagement of all stakeholders. **The new strategic Plan for the Convention** will include clear and measurable targets to achieve the objectives of the Convention in forests and other ecosystems by 2020.

COP 10 is also expected to adopt the Aichi Nagoya protocol on **access and benefit sharing** of genetic resources which will also benefit the world's forests, through improved arrangements to equitably share the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic forest resources, which are the basis for numerous medicinal and other products. This would also add to our growing understanding of the full economic value and potential of forest biodiversity. The report The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity study (or TEEB in short) will be presented at COP 10, contains a wealth of data and analysis on the true economic value of forests. It will contribute to promoting the environmental economics and **valuation of ecosystem services**.

**Biodiversity and climate change** will be another central focus of the negotiations. COP 10 will consider a series of recommendations to address the challenges and seize the opportunities for forest biodiversity and local livelihoods arising in the context of climate change. Among other recommendations, the COP will address inviting Parties to **implement sustainable forest management and the protection of natural forests**, and inviting Parties to consider biodiversity and ecosystem services when designing, implementing and monitoring afforestation, reforestation and restoration activities for climate change mitigation. In addition, the COP will discuss the biodiversity benefits from Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD-plus), and other sustainable land management activities for mitigation, for biodiversity and for forest-dwelling indigenous peoples and local communities.

Based on COP 10 outcomes, the CBD Secretariat would contribute to the discussions on, and the possible development of, REDD biodiversity safeguards and mechanisms to monitor the impacts of REDD on biodiversity. To this end, COP may request the Executive Secretary to investigate whether there are **inadequacies in forest biodiversity reporting and monitoring**, and if so, suggest ways to address these inadequacies, in collaboration the UN Forum on Forests, the FAO, and the other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

In this context, the CBD Secretariat, in collaboration with the UN REDD Programme, is convening a global expert workshop on “Biodiversity Benefits of REDD-plus” next month in Nairobi, Kenya, which will discuss an extensive **list of research and development needs** that address inadequacies in forest biodiversity reporting and monitoring. Key research needs for REDD-plus from a biodiversity perspective include the following:

- refine and operationalize the definitions of key terms, such as forest degradation;
- assess the potential benefits of REDD for biodiversity and develop tools for monitoring;
- analyze the patterns of success or failure at the national and local level in reducing forest biodiversity loss;
- provide early indications of the feasibility of medium- or long-term political targets, such as the potential for large-scale forest landscape restoration;

- develop spatial tools that overlay, at different scales, a range of ecosystem services and livelihood dimensions, including carbon storage and biodiversity;
- identify appropriate contributions of Sustainable Forest Management to REDD-plus;
- assess the implications of additionality and other criteria developed for climate change and how this may affect the achievement of co-benefits relating to ecosystems and livelihoods; and finally,
- identify lessons learned from payments for ecosystem services in relation to local livelihoods and other benefits.

The theme of this 23<sup>rd</sup> IUFRO World Congress “*Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment*” is therefore of direct relevance to the agenda of the Convention on Biological Diversity. I would like to convey to IUFRO my gratitude for this unique contribution which coincides also with the celebration of the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity. The CBD Secretariat is proud to be a partner for this Congress, and to present results of a recent scientific synthesis on the linkages between biodiversity, climate change, and forest ecosystem resilience later this week in a subplenary session.

I would like to close with words of **President Lee of the Republic of Korea**, who said in his statement at Global Korea 2010, "A strong and prosperous nation is determined not by the size of its land or the wealth of its natural resources; it is whether countries adopt the right kinds of policies that make the real difference."

This 23<sup>rd</sup> IUFRO World Congress brings together the world’s leading forest scientists and experts to share their knowledge and **set the forest research agenda for years to come, which will contribute to the development of right kinds of policies that will make the real difference.**

Thank you.

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