

Rio Conventions' ECOSYSTEMS PAVILION

Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management

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The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity involving the Rio Convention secretariats, with the Global Environment Facility and other important partners

Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management: Moving Towards Rio +20 Thursday, 28 October, Nagoya - Day 10

All about choices—Experience in his country has shown that climate change adaptation is far from being an abstract word, says Ronald Jumeau, Seychelles Ambassador to the UN. The Seychelles, along with other small islands states, have very difficult choices to make in the face of rising sea-level and coral bleaching. In a country that imports 80 per cent of its food supply, a lack of land is a major obstacle to development—in fact the country's major airport is built on a coral reef that was inundated during the 1994 tsunami. "When protecting the marine ecosystems, we rely on income from tourism and fisheries." Tourism generates the funds needed to protect the environment but it also puts pressure on our ecosystems.

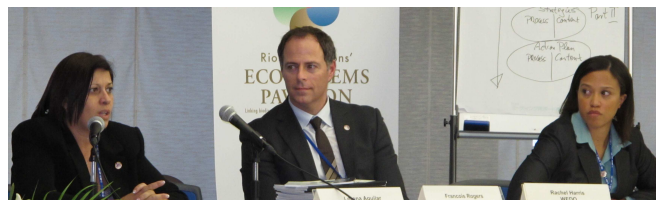
Missing the point— "It is so good to talk about ecosystems adaptation, but I feel we are building a barrier between our concepts and those of the other sectors," says Mariana Bellot Rojas from the Mexican National Commission for Protected Areas. Mexico, she says, has difficulties with land planning. Tourism, energy, transport ministries all do their own land planning. But each agency forgets the land itself—the ecosystems.

Overcoming natural hesitation— Conservation stakeholders need to develop a language that makes sense to other sectors, says Sam Johnston from UNU. Nik Sekhran from UNDP adds that "even if we discuss climate change for years, there is still hesitation in taking on natural solutions." Natural solutions should be treated the same as engineered solutions.

Inverted logic—We need to invert our logic, says Ladislav Miko from the European Commission. "Instead of saying we will protect biodiversity, we should be asking what problems from other sectors we can solve with natural ecosystems solutions which will also boost biodiversity health." The next step, says

Trevor Sandwith from The Nature Conservancy, is to institutionalize in other sectors biodiversity and conservation concerns. He added: "The challenges we face have to become the opportunities, because there are still undiscovered solutions to the problems."

Women and land— "What percentage of the world's land is owned by women?" asked François Rogers of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBiF), and answered "just one per cent." But it is more than owning land. Women need to be part of the decision-making process as well, says Natalia Kostus from the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). She says that quotas for the participation of women in environmental decision making should be



Lorena Aguilar IUCN, François Roger GBiF, and Rachel Harris, WEDO.

Women play a critical role in adaptation—While 70 percent of the 1.3 billion people living in poverty are women, statistics show that women-headed households eat better than those headed by men. Ninety-five per cent of female earnings from forests are spent on family needs, while only 5-15 per cent of men's earnings go to the household says Lorena Aguilar from IUCN. She adds that women worldwide are the main keepers of plant-based medicine and that a study showed that in Venezuela the majority of traditional medicine plants are not found in the forests, but in the patios taken care of by women. They also possess repertoires of coping

strategies that have traditionally been used to manage climate variability. Women are also crucial in any efforts to mitigate climate change, as women make 80 per cent of the consumption decisions.

Gender dimension to REDD—It is crucial to include women in the policy-making and measuring, reporting and verifying in the context of REDD, says Andrea Quesada-Aguilar from WEDO. Women should especially be consulted in the establishment of processes to distribute benefits as they often are not happy with payments for ecosystem services in cash but prefer resources in the form of community benefits, like reforestation projects, water systems, or education.

Three trees with one seed! The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems Pavilion has been developed as a single structure, says UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, to provide shelter from the threats of global unsustainability. "The Pavilion rests on the three pillars of the Rio Conventions, with global sustainability as the roof above us and domestic implementation as the ground beneath our feet." The Pavilion, she says, has been holding events everyday during COP10, advancing awareness on the linkages between biodiversity, climate change and land desertification, and fostering policy at the grassroots level. "Our eyes should be on the stars, but our feet should be firmly on the ground."



Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UNFCCC and Tsunao Watanabe, Deputy Director-General Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of Environment, Japan.

"The Pavilion has done a great job," says Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD. About 300-400 people a day attended the sessions, and more than 20 Ministers and the three Executive Secretaries of the Rio Conventions participated during a total of more than 250 presentations over ten days here at CBD COP10. "The Pavilion showcased what we are doing. It was a place to interact."



Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary, UNCCD

"The Pavilion should continue its good work in Cancun up to Rio in 2012", says Tsunao Watanabe, Ministry of Environment, Japan. "We will continue to push this caravan to new frontiers, making the impossible possible", answers Luc Gnacadja.

Though there may be exuberance at the thought of attacking the three issues of biodiversity, climate change and desertification with one ecosystem approach, leading some to use the phrase "kill three birds with one stone," that is not advised at a biodiversity conference says Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC. Instead, she suggested, "we should plant three trees with one seed."

Heartfelt thanks from the Rio Conventions' Secretariats to all of the Pavilion partners and their partners who helped make the inaugural Pavilion such a success:

Japan, Mexico, European Commission, Norway, The Netherlands, Spain, the Flemish Government, TEEB, GLISPA, IUCN WCPA, UNDP, UNEP, Conservation International, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, LifeWeb, and the GEF.

Please visit the Pavilion website for further information about these key collaborators.

<http://ecosystemspavilion.org>



Discussing ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation – challenges and opportunities: Ladislav Miko European Commission, Nik Sekhran UNDP, Trevor Sandwith The Nature Conservancy, Ambassador Ronny Jumeau Seychelles, Sam Johnston, United Nations University.

Ecosystems Pavilion Programme Overview

18 October, Monday	<i>The linkages between biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate change</i> With the European Commission and other partners	Evening Sessions – Reducing emissions from degradation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) <i>With UNEP and other UN REDD members</i>
19 October, Tuesday	<i>Key role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies</i> With IUCN WCPA and other partners	Session 1: Inter-linkages of biodiversity, carbon and economics
20 October, Wednesday	<i>Indigenous peoples and communities – benefits and livelihoods</i> With UNDP, Conservation International and other partners	Session 2: Traditional knowledge in conserving biodiversity and carbon
21 October, Thursday	<i>Forest biodiversity: mitigation and adaptation – the linked benefits provided by forests</i> With members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners	Session 3: Environmental safeguards and REDD
22 October, Friday	<i>Water, ecosystems and climate change</i> With SCBD and other partners	Session 4: Measuring and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services within REDD
23 October, Saturday	<i>UNCCD Land Day 3</i>	Session 5 (11am -1:30 pm): Empowerment of the biodiversity constituency in REDD processes
		Evening Sessions – Commitments and international cooperation for financing synergies, in partnership with CBD's LifeWeb
25 October, Monday	<i>Economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change and land management</i> With TEEB and other partners	Session 1: Mesoamerican financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring Costa Rica Forever and other national initiatives
26 October, Tuesday	<i>Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation</i> With IUCN, ICLEI and other partners	Session 2: Caribbean and Micronesian financing synergies through protected-area solutions
27 October, Wednesday	<i>Promoting synergies for sustainable development and poverty reduction</i> With UNDP and other partners	Session 3: South American financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring the Pan-Amazonian Vision
28 October, Thursday	<i>Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Summit: Moving Towards Rio+20</i>	Session 4: West African Coastal and Marine financing synergies through protected area solutions

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<http://ecosystemspavilion.org>

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