

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Bioversity International, CIAT, CIFOR, ICRAF as partners in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (2012-2016)

1. Preamble

The Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the International Centre for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF, also known as “World Agroforestry Centre”), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and Bioversity International, partners in the CGIAR Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry: Livelihoods, Landscapes and Governance (hereinafter the CRP6 Partner Centers) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter the ‘Secretariat’);

Recalling the adoption of the CBD expanded program of work on forest biological diversity (CBD POW) adopted 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 program of work;

Recalling COP decision X/36 which invites CIFOR, as a member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), (i) to closely collaborate in implementing the CBD expanded program of work on forest biological diversity and the targets concerning forest biodiversity agreed upon in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and (ii) to exchange information on measures that promote forest law enforcement and address related trade to increase mutually supportive application of such measures and (iii) contribute to the implementation of the expanded program of work on forest biodiversity;

Recognizing the roles of agroforestry and agricultural and forest biodiversity in diversifying agricultural production, increasing food and nutrition for farmers and enhancing the environmental benefits including climate change mitigation and adaptation;

Recalling the critical inter-relationship between the condition of forests; environmental threats such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification; and human wellbeing;

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

Noting that a joint framework for cooperation between the CRP6 Partner Centers and the CBD Secretariat would enhance the support that could be provided towards the efforts of governments in implementing sustainable forest management and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the CBD program of work on forest biodiversity;

Have reached the following understanding:

2. Objective

This MoU is aimed at facilitating the implementation of activities linked to the CGIAR Research on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry; and the implementation of the CBD program of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, particularly targets 5, 7, 11, 14, 15 and 18.

3. Purpose

The key purpose of this MoU over the next four years is to:

- a. Identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity
- b. Facilitate information exchange between the CRP6 Partner Centers and the Secretariat.

4. Activities

The Signatories agree the following is a nonexclusive statement of activities they may undertake under this MoU, singly or together, in furtherance of their common purpose:

- Strengthen support for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, and the program of work on forest biodiversity, including through catalyzing and providing support to research and the provision of resulting data for monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets against indicators at all levels
- Strengthening the science and policy efforts to link biodiversity conservation with forest-based climate change adaptation and mitigation practices
- Organizing joint activities, including joint awareness-raising and capacity-building activities

In addition, the CRP6 Partner Centers will:

- Contribute to data and scientific analysis on issues of concern to the CBD, including case studies, best practices and practical guidelines
- Contribute to analysis of status of implementation and factors of success of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, and the program of work on forest biodiversity
- Provide resource persons and design expertise, as appropriate, for the delivery of capacity development activities such as regional workshops, technical clinics and other knowledge-sharing mechanisms

In addition, the CBD Secretariat will:

- Inform the CRP6 Partner Centers of opportunities to provide expertise through consultative mechanisms related to the areas of activity indicated under this MoU
- Involve the CRP6 Partner Centers in analysis of status of implementation and factors of success for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, and the program of work on forest biodiversity



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- Involve the CRP6 Partner Centers in outreach activities to communicate progress in the implementation of areas of activity indicated or developed under this MoU

5. Resource mobilization

The CRP6 Partner Centers and the Secretariat should regularly consult with each other to determine the availability of resources required for implementing the activities under this MoU and the most equitable way of meeting such requirements, if any. If resources are not available, the CRP6 Partner Centers and the Secretariat will consult and agree on the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources, including opportunities for joint fundraising.

6. Non-binding Relationship of the Parties

This MoU is a consummation of the understanding of the Signatories. Commitment of funding contemplated by the Signatories shall be formalized under separate legally binding agreements.

7. Confidentiality

The Signatories agree to hold all information disclosed between themselves which is designated and marked “confidential” in confidence and not to disclose or communicate such information except to their employees/consultants for the furtherance of the purpose of this MoU. All employees/consultants to whom confidential information has been disclosed shall be informed of its confidential nature and directed to hold it in accordance with the terms of its disclosure.

8. Dispute Resolution

Any disagreements between the Signatories concerning interpretation or application of this MoU will be settled amicably by negotiation.

9. Indemnification

Nothing in this MoU shall be construed to create a relationship between the Signatories, or to render any Signatory liable for the debts or obligations incurred by any other. No Signatory is authorized to make representations on behalf of the others, or to bind the others in any manner whatsoever.

10. Amendments

The terms of this MoU can be amended, with the approval of all Signatories, by means of exchange of letters or email through the authorized officials at each institution. Any Signatory may initiate the exchange of letters or email.

11. Duration and timeline

This MoU shall become effective on the date of last signature and will end on 31 December 2016, with possible extension if mutually agreed.



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The Signatories will review the effectiveness of this arrangement on an annual basis and decide on necessary steps to keep it dynamic and effective.

12. Termination

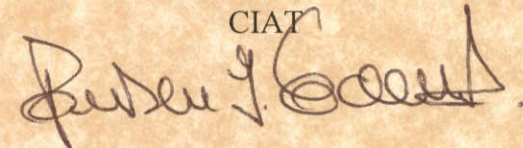
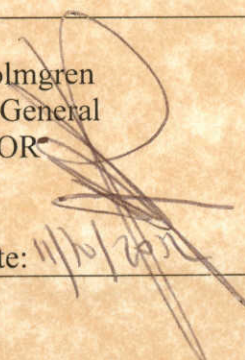
Any Signatory can terminate its participation in this MoU by giving a three months written notice to the other Signatories.

This MoU can be terminated if any of the Signatories proposes so in writing at least six months from the intended termination date and if the proposal is accepted by the other Signatories.

Termination shall not affect the execution and conclusion of specific activities in effect under the terms of this MoU.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, this MoU is signed by the respective officers on the day, month and year indicated below:

Signatures:

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias Executive Secretary CBD  Date: Oct 11, 2012	Emile Frison Director General Bioversity International  Date: 11/10/2012
Ruben Echeverria Director General CIAT  Date:	Tony Simons Director General ICRAF  Date: 11/10/2012
Peter Holmgren Director General CIFOR  Date: 11/10/2012	