



**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Secretariat of the
International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
(2010-2014)**

1. Preamble

The Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), (hereafter called the Secretariats);

Recalling the adoption of the CBD expanded programme 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 programme of work;

Welcoming the adoption of the resolution by the United Nations Economic and Social Council establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and recommending the formation of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);

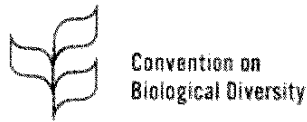
Recalling the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 62/98 on 17 December 2007, which offers an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation to implement sustainable forest management (SFM);

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

Recalling ITTC decisions 13(XXIX) and 7(XXX) in which the International Tropical Timber Council requested the Executive Director of the ITTO to explore options for a work plan with targeted joint activities with international organizations, including the CBD Secretariat;

Further recalling the direct relevance to the ITTO of activities of forest-related international organizations and processes to address conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests;

Recalling CBD decision IX/5, at which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to carry out thematic and/or regional workshops to support Parties' efforts in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity, based on the findings of the in-depth review of the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3) and that such workshops should be carried out, among others, in close cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other members of the CPF;



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ITTO

Recognizing the advantage in identifying a basic format for collaboration and cooperation, focused on guiding principles and fundamental elements, in accordance with the respective mandates and activities of the two Secretariats;

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 Secretariats would enhance the support that could be provided towards the efforts of governments in implementing sustainable tropical forest management and the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in tropical forests;

Have reached the following understanding:

2. Objective

This MoU is aimed at facilitating the implementation of activities linked to the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest biodiversity within the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2010-2011 and subsequent Work Programmes, the ITTO Thematic Programmes, the ITTO Action Plan 2008 – 2011 and any successor Action Plan; and the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the new CBD Strategic Plan and multi-year programme of work.

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 between the Secretariats, with involvement of other relevant organizations, including for instance the development of an ITTO support programme for the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries.
- b. Facilitate information exchange between the Secretariats.

4. Focus of the work on tropical forests and biodiversity

Over the long term, areas of focus related to biodiversity conservation and tropical forests could include the following:

- Continue to organize joint activities under several different modalities
- Promoting cooperation with other sectors
- Supporting regional collaboration and South-South cooperation
- Examining opportunities for harmonized reporting on sustainable use and conservation of tropical forests

5. Resource mobilization

The Secretariats 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 expenditures, if any. If resources are not available, the Secretariats will consult on the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources, including opportunities for joint fundraising.

6. Duration and timeline

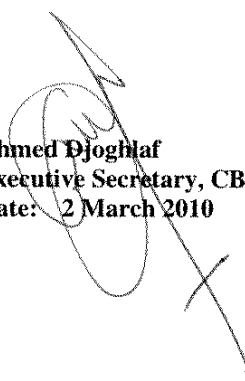
The MoU will end on 31 December 2014, with possible extension if mutually agreed, subject to availability of funds. Concrete activities for 2010 and 2011 are listed in Annex 1. The annexed list of activities would be jointly reviewed and updated as deemed necessary.

A report on the first year of implementation (2010) will be presented to the ITTC at its forty-sixth session (in December 2010). The report on the second year of implementation will be presented to the ITTC at its forty-seventh session (in 2011).

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

This MoU shall become effective on the date of signature.

Signature:


Ahmed Djoghla
Executive Secretary, CBD
Date: 2 March 2010


Emmanuel Ze Meka
Executive Director, ITTO
Date: 2 March 2010



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Annex 1: Activities 2010 – 2011

Between date of signature and 31 December 2011, joint activities would include (subject to the availability of financial resources):

1. The development and implementation of joint activities in the context of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the 2011 International Year of Forests (IYF), including collaboration on the seamless bridging of the closing of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and the launch in 2011 of the International Year of Forests;
2. Organization of an International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests (14–17 July 2010, Quito, Ecuador);
3. Promote the development, use and dissemination of publications of common interest, including the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests, and the CBD/IUCN Good Practice Guide on Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods;
4. Develop a support programme for the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries, similar to the ITTO programme for support of implementation of CITES Decisions related to tropical timber species.