

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between the Secretariat of the UNFF and the Secretariat of the CBD
(2009-2011)**

1. Preamble

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), (hereafter called the Secretariats);

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);

Also recalling the UNFF's role in facilitating the implementation of the Forest Instrument within the context of its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2007-2015, to advance the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, and achieve progress towards the four global objectives on forests;

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

Recalling decision IX/5 in which the COP requested the Executive Secretary of the CBD to explore options for a work plan with targeted joint activities with the Director of the UNFF Secretariat; and UNFF Resolution 8/1, requesting the UNFF Secretariat to explore with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions a format and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation and to develop targeted joint activities related to SFM, as well as the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and the International Year of Forests in 2011;

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 format between the Secretariats would enhance the support that could be provided towards the efforts of governments in implementing the Forest Instrument and the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity;

Have reached the following understanding:

2. Objective

This MoU is aimed at facilitating the implementation of the Forest Instrument and the UNFF MYPOW and the CBD POW and at promoting joint activities related to the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the 2011 International Year of Forests (IYF).

3. Purpose

The key purpose of this MOU is to:

- a. Identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity between the Secretariats, with involvement of other relevant organizations.
- b. Facilitate information exchange between the Secretariats.
- c. Support preparations for the seamless bridging of the close of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and the launch in 2011 of the International Year of Forests, including the development and implementation of conceptual and organizational links between both international years, and the organization of joint events;

4. Focus of the work on forests and biodiversity

Areas of focus could include:

- Organizing joint activities during the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010 and International Year of Forests in 2011
- Promoting cooperation with other sectors
- Supporting regional collaboration and South-South Cooperation
- Examining opportunities for reporting

5. Duration and Timeline

A report on the first phase of implementation (2009 – 2010) will be presented to the UNFF at its ninth session (UNFF9 in January 2011). The second phase of implementation (2011) will be presented to the UNFF at its tenth session (UNFF10 in 2013) and to the CBD, pending outcomes of the tenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties (18-29 October 2010).

The MoU will end on 31 December 2011, with possible extension if mutually agreed.

6. 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, and, if resources are not available, the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources.

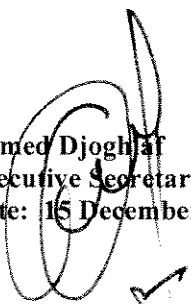
The Secretariats have agreed to launch a new type of collaboration through the following arrangement (subject to the availability of financial resources):

1. The CBD Secretariat shall loan to the UNFF Secretariat, on a non-reimbursable basis, a staff member to perform the functions of Joint Programme Officer, as specified in the attached Terms of Reference for an initial period of two years;
2. This arrangement can be extended, subject to availability of funds and consent by the parties involved;

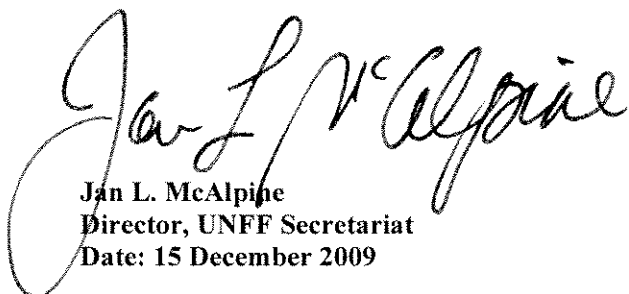
3. The Secretariats will review the effectiveness of this arrangement on an annual basis and decide on necessary steps to keep it dynamic and efficient;
4. This agreement is in accordance with the Inter-agency agreement concerning secondment or Loan of staff among the organizations applying the United Nations Common system of salaries and allowances.

This MoU shall become effective on the date of signature below.

Signature:



Ahmed Djoghlat
Executive Secretary, CBD
Date: 15 December 2009



Jan L. McAlpine
Director, UNFF Secretariat
Date: 15 December 2009