Introduction to workshop objectives and documents

Global expert workshop on REDD-plus Biodiversity Benefits, Nairobi, Kenya, 20-23 September 2010

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Outline

- Workshop objectives
- Relevant CBD COP guidance
- Background documents
- Summary of technical background paper
- Further process

Workshop objectives

- **Overall objective**: support Parties in achieving REDD-plus biodiversity and indigenous and local community (ILC) benefits (decision IX/5 3 (a))

- **Specifically:**
  1. develop recommendations related to biodiversity/ILC risks of REDD-plus and how to avoid them
  2. Identify opportunities for biodiversity/ILC benefits and how to optimize them

- **Context:** the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity (decision VI/22 and IX/5)

Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity

1. Conservation, Sustainable Use, Benefit-sharing

- increase sustainable management of forests
- implement ecosystem approach
- designate PAs
- restore degraded forests
- fight against forest fires
- invasive alien species

2. Institutional, Socio-economic Enabling Environment

- provide incentives for the use of sustainable practices (e.g., certification)
- develop good practices in forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG)
- ensure equitable ABS with indigenous and local communities
- clarify land tenure and resource rights

3. Knowledge, Assessment, Monitoring

- advance assessment methods
- research forest ecosystem functioning
- develop a global forest classification system
- improve the infrastructure for data and information management

CBD PROGRAMME OF WORK ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY

GOAL 1.1

Apply the ecosystem approach to the management of all types of forests.

OBJECTIVE

1. Develop practical methods, guidelines, indicators and strategies to apply the ecosystem approach to forests.

GOAL 1.2

Reduce the threats and mitigate the impacts of threatening processes on forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Prevent the introduction of invasive alien species that threaten ecosystems, and mitigate their negative impacts on forest biological diversity.
2. Mitigate the impact of pollution such as acidification and eutrophication on forest biodiversity.
3. Mitigate the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity.
4. Prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of forest fires and fire suppression.
5. Mitigate effects of the loss of natural disturbances necessary to maintain biodiversity in regions where these no longer occur.
6. Prevent and mitigate losses due to fragmentation and conversion to other land uses.

GOAL 1.3

Protect, recover and restore forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Restore forest biological diversity in degraded secondary forests and in forests established on former forestlands and other landscapes, including in plantations.
2. Promote forest management practices that further the conservation of endemic and threatened species.
3. Ensure adequate and effective protected forest area networks.

GOAL 1.4

Promote the sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Promote sustainable use of forest resources to enhance the conservation of forest biological diversity.
2. Prevent losses caused by unsustainable harvesting of timber and non-timber forest resources.
3. Enable indigenous and local communities to develop and implement adaptive community-management systems to conserve and sustainably use forest biological diversity.
4. Develop effective and equitable information systems and strategies, and promote implementation of those strategies.

GOAL 1.5

Access and benefit-sharing of forest genetic resources.

OBJECTIVE

1. Promote the fair and equitable sharing of benefits resulting from the utilization of forest genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

GOAL 2.1

Enhance the institutional enabling environment.

OBJECTIVES

1. Improve the understanding of the various causes of forest biological diversity losses.
2. Parties, Governments and organizations to integrate biological diversity conservation and sustainable use into forest and other sector policies and programmes.
3. Parties and Governments to develop good governance practices, review and revise and implement forest and forest-related laws, tenure and planning systems, to provide a sound basis for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.
4. Promote forest law enforcement and address related trade.

GOAL 2.2

Address socio-economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE

1. Mitigate the economic failures and distortions that lead to decisions that result in loss of forest biological diversity.

GOAL 2.3

Increase public education, participation, and awareness.

OBJECTIVE

1. Increase public support and understanding of the value of forest biological diversity and its goods and services at all levels.

CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE USE AND BENEFIT-SHARING 1 — INSTITUTIONAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ENABLING ENVIRONMENT 2 — 3 KNOWLEDGE, ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

GOAL 3.1

Characterize and analyse forest ecosystems and develop a general classification of forests at various scales, in order to improve the assessment of status and trends of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVES

1. Review and adopt a harmonized global to regional forest classification system, based on harmonized and accepted forest definitions, and addressing key forest biological diversity elements.
2. Develop national forest classification systems and maps.
3. Develop, where appropriate, specific forest ecosystems surveys in priority areas for conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity.

GOAL 3.2

Improve knowledge on and methods for the assessment of the status and trends of forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE

1. Advance the development and implementation of international, regional and national criteria and indicators, based on key regional, subregional and national measures.

GOAL 3.3

Improve understanding of the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

OBJECTIVE

1. Conduct key research programmes on the role of forest biodiversity and ecosystem functioning.

GOAL 3.4

Improve the infrastructure for data and information management for accurate assessment and monitoring of global forest biological diversity.

OBJECTIVE

1. Enhance and improve the technical capacity at the national level to monitor forest biological diversity and develop associated databases as required on a global scale.

For more information, see the CBD website: www.cbd.int

Convention on Biological Diversity

This publication has been produced with financial support from the Spanish Government

http://www.cbd.int/forest/pow.shtml

CBD COP Decisions relating to REDD

Decision IX/5 invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant international and other organizations to ensure that possible actions for REDD:

- *do not run counter to the objectives of the CBD and implementation of the forest programme of work (PoW)*
- *support implementation of the PoW, and*
- *provide benefits for forest biodiversity and indigenous and local communities*

Decision IX/16 established Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, with the mandate to inter alia develop recommendations on REDD biodiversity and indigenous and local community benefits

COP 10 draft decisions regarding REDD

Synergies between Rio Conventions

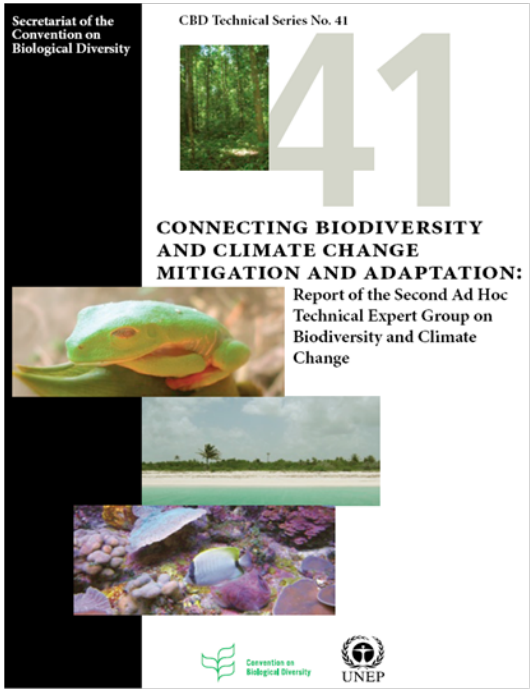
Requests the ES to:

- Convene, in collaboration with the UNFCCCS, an expert workshop on REDD with a view to enhancing the coordination of capacity-building efforts on issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem-based carbon sequestration and the conservation of forest carbon stocks;

- Identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD to achieving the objectives of the CBD, taking into account relevant elements of the CBD Strategic Plan

- Contribute to the discussion on safeguards

Linkages between Biodiversity and Climate Change



AHTEG Report 2009*:

REDD-plus:

- potential to deliver significant co-benefits for forest biodiversity if mechanisms are designed appropriately.

- This means:
  - recognizing the contribution of diverse forests, in particular primary forests, to long-term carbon sequestration/storage;
  - Respecting rights of indigenous and local communities;
  - addressing important forest governance issues such as illegal logging and land tenure.

Further discussion about CBD and REDD perspectives: *"Recent CBD scientific findings on biodiversity and climate change - Information Note 1 for UNFCCC COP15"* (http://www.cbd.int/climate/copenhagen)

* *Connecting Biodiversity and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation*. CBD Technical Series No. 41. www.cbt.int/ts

Workshop documents

- Technical background document (DRAFT) UNEP/CBD/WS-REDD/1/2

- Information documents, e.g. AHTEG report (TS 41); Forest Resilience, Biodiversity, and Climate Change (TS 43); REDD Benefits: Biodiversity and Livelihoods; “Greening REDD+”

Links between biodiversity and forest carbon

- Generally, strong correlation between forest carbon stock and biodiversity (e.g. Strassburg et al., 2010). Both are highest in primary forests

- However, important exceptions, and related opportunities to optimize biodiversity benefits at low cost (Venter et al., 2009), e.g. focus on areas with high levels of endemism – key opportunity for GEF and other biodiversity funding.

Links between biodiversity and forest carbon

- Carbon in plantations on average 28% lower than primary or other naturally regenerated forests (Liao et al., 2010)

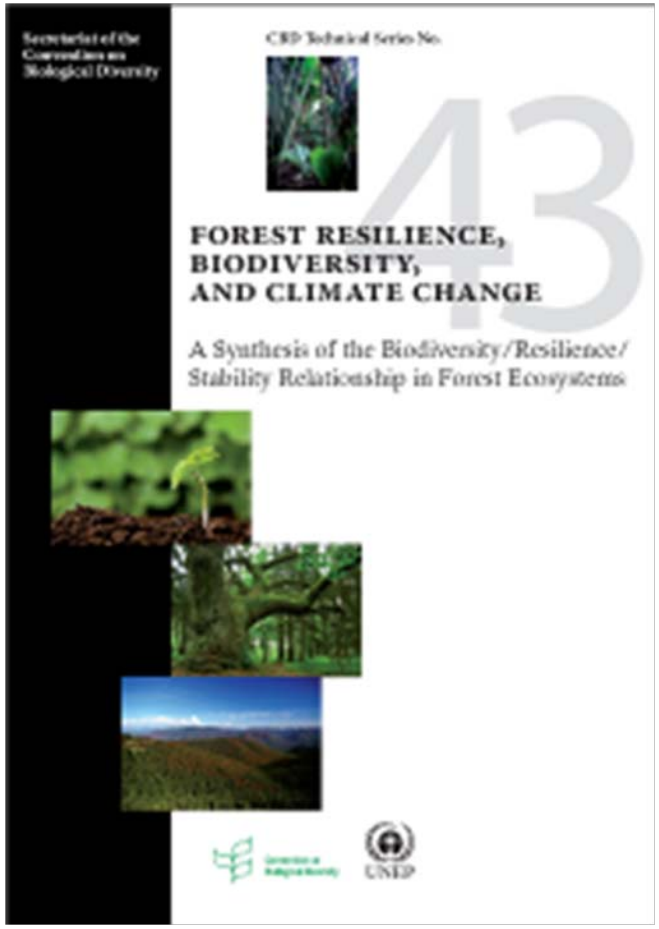
- A/R generally inferior to natural succession for carbon sequestration and storage (with exceptions); factors leading to forest degradation need to be effectively controlled for A/R (Sayer et al., 2004; Liao et al., 2010)

Links between biodiversity and forest carbon

- Synthesis of 400+ peer-reviewed articles: Forest resilience and stability depend on biodiversity, at multiple scales (Thompson et al., 2009, see also Diaz et al., 2009)

- Implications e.g. for REDD permanence: biodiversity essential for stability/carbon permanence

- **Biodiversity is enabling condition for SFM and REDD-plus**



Forest Resilience and Biodiversity: Key Findings

- **Primary forests and other naturally regenerated forests are generally more resilient** (and stable, resistant, and adaptive) than planted forests.

- Biodiversity (at species, genetic and ecosystem level) supports **maintain forest ecosystem resilience** and thus the long-term stability of the forest carbon stock.

- Increasing the biodiversity in **planted and semi-natural forests** will have a positive effect on their resilience capacity and often on their productivity (including carbon storage).

AHTEG Guidance on ecosystem based mitigation

- **A portfolio of land use management activities can contribute to the objectives of the UNFCCC, UNCCD, UNFF and CBD, including:**
  - protection of natural forest and peatland carbon stocks,
  - sustainable management of forests,
  - use of native assemblages of forest species in reforestation activities,
  - sustainable wetland management and restoration of degraded wetlands; and
  - sustainable agricultural practices

(Specific guidance on each point in CBD Technical Series 41)

AHTEG Guidance on ecosystem based mitigation

Guidance e.g. on afforestation/reforestation:

- **Reforestation:** use an appropriate mix of native species, incorporate any natural forest remnants; aim for permanent, semi-natural forest. Reforestation activities on degraded lands can also relieve pressure on natural forests by supplying alternatives sources of sustainable wood products to local communities, thereby providing additional biodiversity and climate change mitigation benefits.

- **Afforestation:** convert only degraded land or ecosystems largely composed of invasive alien species; include native tree species; develop diverse, multi-strata canopies; minimize disturbance; consider the invasiveness of non-native species, and strategically locate A/R within the landscape to enhance connectivity.

CBD AHTEG, 2009 (CBD Technical Series 41)

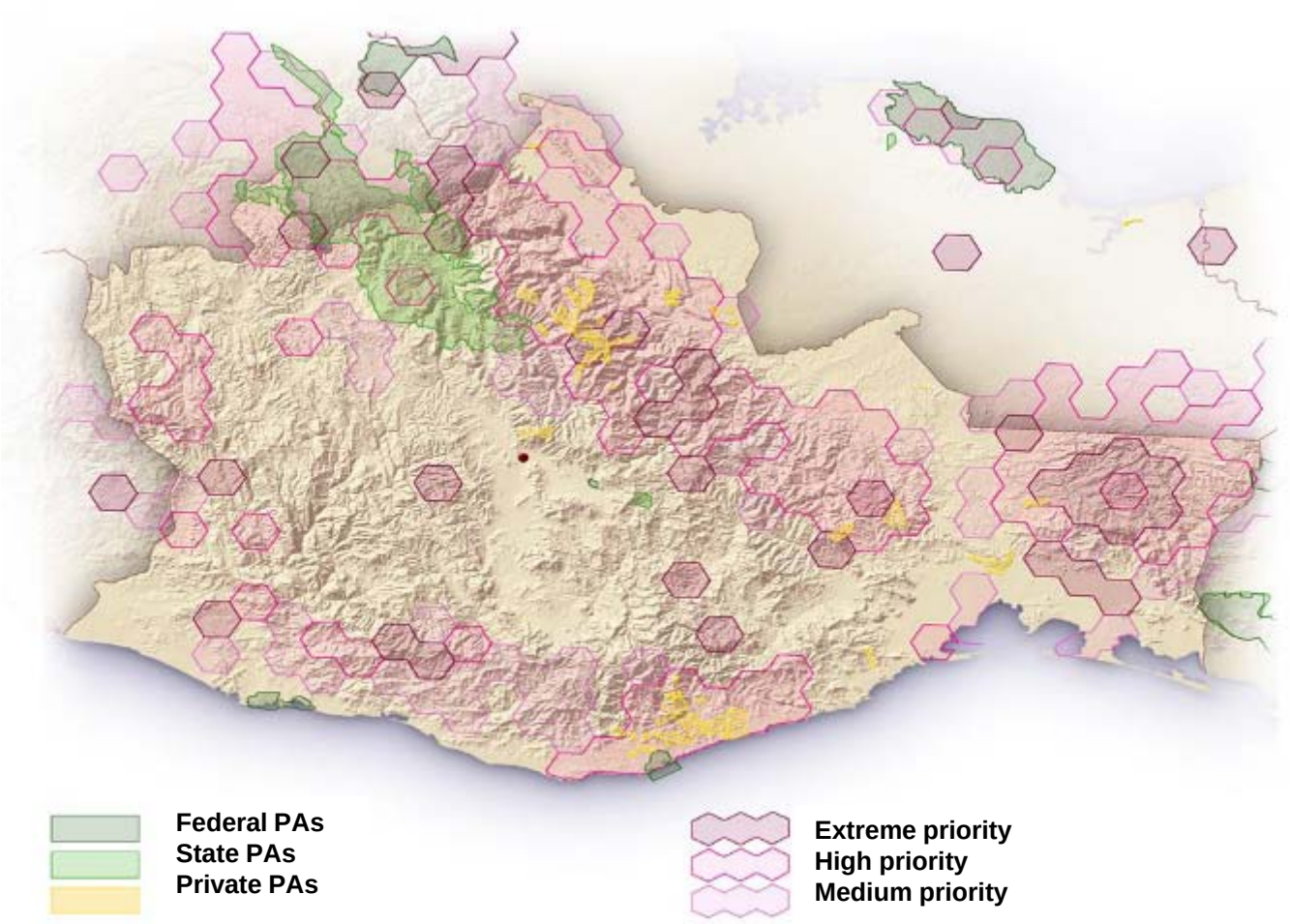
There is no “one-size fits all” model

Links between biodiversity and forest carbon

	Landscape context		
Land use management and forestry-based climate change mitigation options	**1.Landscapes where active deforestation and forest degradation are occurring**	**2. Landscapes where there is minimal or no deforestation and forest degradation**	**3. Landscapes which have largely been deforested**
Reducing deforestation and forest degradation	*X*		
Forest conservation	*X*	*X*	
Sustainable management of forest carbon stocks	*X*		*X (potentially applicable to remnant forest patches in landscape)*
Afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration	*X (on already-deforested or degraded land)*		*X*
Conservation and restoration of peatlands, mangroves and other forested wetlands	*X*	*X*	*X*

CBD AHTEG, 2009 (CBD Technical Series 41)

Tools for SFM/REDD-plus biodiversity benefits



Protected area/biodiversity priorities in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico, as part of the national "Spaces and Species" assessment under the CBD programme of work on protected areas. The assessment can help to identify REDD areas of high biodiversity which are under threat, as well as priority areas for restoration.

Similar national ecological gap analyses have been carried out under the auspices of the CBD in over 40 developing countries.

Tools for SFM/REDD-plus biodiversity benefits

- LifeWeb / UNEP-WCMC carbon mapping tool, at www.carbon-biodiversity.net
  - not fully operational yet ; has the potential to become a key tool for SFM/REDD-plus biodiversity and carbon co-benefits, if datasets are improved (e.g. include country biodiversity gap analysis data, and data on ecosystem services); possibly migrate the tool to a more central location/agency for implementation?
  - Link: http://vimeo.com/11524686

- Other tools e.g. at www.valuingthearc.org:
  - Tanzania mapping the spatial distribution of carbon storage, water regulation and endemic species (among other aspects), and exploring the consequences of alternative development trajectories on ecosystem services

Key Knowledge Gaps

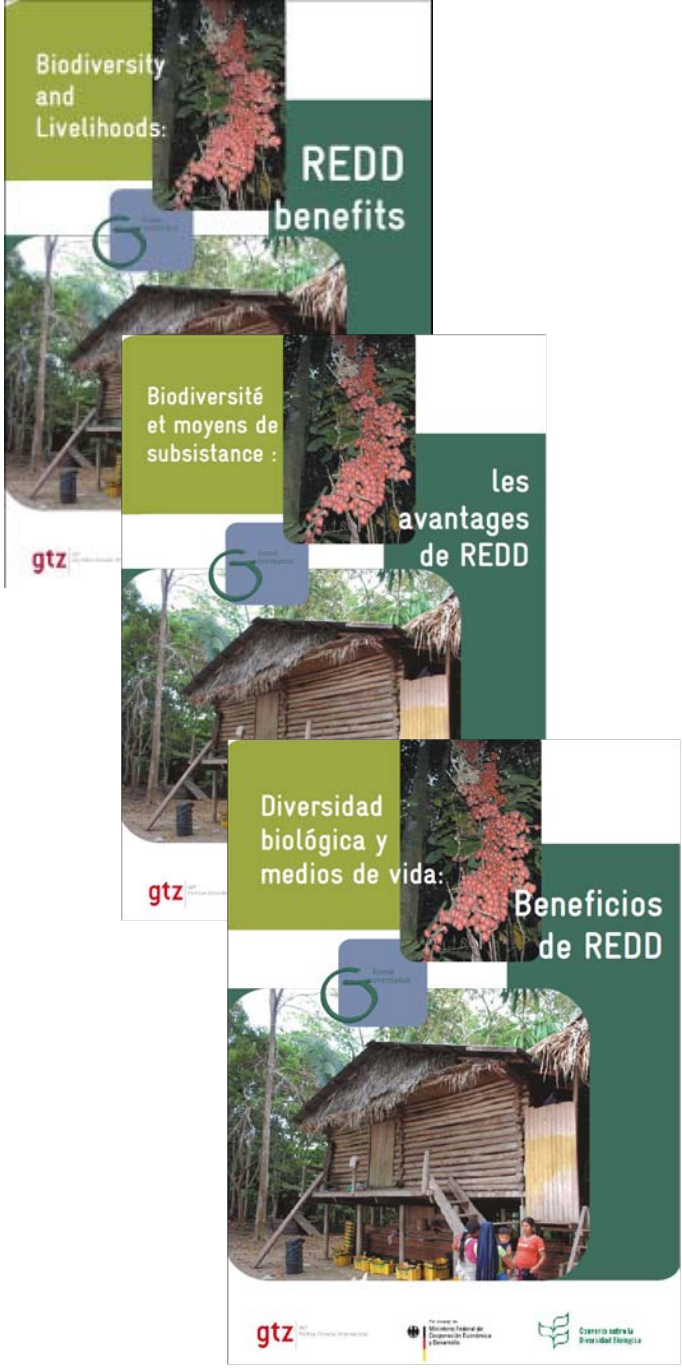
- **Monitoring of SFM/REDD-plus biodiversity benefits**, including in the context of forest degradation/restoration: simple yet robust criteria and indicators (work ongoing)
- **Biodiversity and ecosystem service data and models** including for online (interactive) 'on-the-fly' assessments
- **Economic aspects**: quantify the return on investment of multiple benefits/synergies, including ES
- Refining and/or operationalizing the **definitions** of certain terms (forest degradation ; classification of forest types)

Summary

- **Biodiversity** and forest resilience are enabling conditions for SFM and REDD-plus
- **CBD guidance** in Technical Series 41: AHTEG report
- **Moving target:** relevant COP guidance, tools, and methods (including definitions) are being developed
- Achieving **multiple benefits** in forests is feasible *if* basic Do's and Don'ts are observed; key knowledge gaps are closed; and basic tools are improved and widely accessible
- **Useful tools** are available and almost ready to use, to support project development, evaluation, and monitoring; capacity varies between countries and regions

Biodiversity and Livelihoods: REDD benefits

- Summarises key benefits of REDD for biodiversity and livelihoods, as well as mitigation/adaptation synergies
- Design aspects to maximise potential to deliver significant benefits for forest biodiversity and for indigenous and local communities
- Available at www.cbd.int/forest



Key events

- Global Expert workshop REDD-plus Biodiversity Benefits, Nairobi, 20-23 September, in collaboration with UN REDD (funded by German government)
- Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion of the Rio Conventions and GEF, at CBD COP 10, UNFCCC COP 16, UNCCD COP 10, Rio +20

CBD COP 10 www.cbd.int/cop10/

- 18 - 29 October 2010, Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan
- Major items:
  - Adoption of Post-2010 Strategic Plan
  - International Regime on Access and Benefit-sharing
- Ministerial Meeting on Forests and Climate Change, 26 October, in conjunction with COP 10 HLS
- International Year of Biodiversity: www.cbd.int/2010

***thank you*!**
***merci*!**
¡*gracias*!

www.cbd.int/2010

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