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Sixteenth meeting
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Item 7.2 of the provisional agenda*

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE RIO CONVENTIONS PAVILION

Note by the Executive Secretary

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, a note presenting a summary of the activities of the Rio Conventions Pavilion. This report has been produced for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as part of the Secretariat activities in response to decisions X/20 (paragraph 6) and X/33 (paragraph 13).
2. The Rio Conventions Pavilion (formerly Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion) is a collaborative outreach and capacity-building initiative of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), in addition to over thirty international, national and local partner organizations.
3. The objective of the Pavilion is to promote and strengthen synergies between the Rio conventions at the implementation level, by providing a coordinated platform to enhance awareness-raising, information sharing and outreach within the framework of the Rio conventions (CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions IX/16 and X/33). As such, the Pavilion responds to the need for enhanced cooperation between the Rio convention secretariats which was noted by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 64/203 of 14 December 2009.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/1.

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4. The Pavilion has received financial support from the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the Flemish Government, in addition to host country contributions from Japan, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Brazil.

5. In addition to strengthening synergies, the Rio Conventions Pavilion promotes awareness-raising and information sharing about linkages in science, policy and practice between biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation, enabling the secretariats and partner organizations to support sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

6. Conceived in Copenhagen in 2009 during the UNFCCC COP-15/CMP 5, the Pavilion launched in 2010 at CBD COP-10 in Nagoya. The Pavilion has subsequently convened at the UNFCCC COP16 in Cancun, Mexico; UNCCD COP-10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea and UNFCCC COP-17 in Durban, South Africa. Thousands of participants attended more than one hundred and fifty sessions and events organized at the margins of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The following is a summary of these activities (detailed coverage can be obtained at www.riopavilion.org).

II. PAVILION ACTIVITIES IN NAGOYA, JAPAN: CBD COP-10

7. The Pavilion was launched at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-10) in Nagoya, Japan, 18 to 29 October 2010, during the International Year for Biodiversity. The Pavilion included an exhibit, a meeting space and a 9-day programme of up to 5 sessions per day with the thematic focus changing daily. Themes covered included:

- The linkages between biodiversity, land management and climate change
- Key role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Indigenous peoples – benefits and livelihoods
- Forest biodiversity: mitigation and adaptation – the linked benefits provided by forests
- Water, Ecosystems and Climate Change
- A special “Land Day” on drylands biodiversity
- Economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change and land management
- Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation
- Promoting synergies for sustainable development and poverty reduction
- Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Summit: Moving towards Rio+20

8. In addition, the following announcements were made by the Lifeweb Initiative:

- Mesoamerican financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring Costa Rica Forever and other national initiatives Caribbean and Micronesian financing synergies through protected-area solutions
- South American financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring the Pan-Amazonian Vision
- West African Coastal and Marine financing synergies through protected area solutions

9. During the first week, evening sessions were devoted to the theme of reducing emissions from forest degradation, with presentations on:

- Inter-linkages of biodiversity, carbon and economics
- Traditional knowledge in conserving biodiversity and carbon
- Environmental safeguards and REDD+¹

¹ With reference to relevant decisions and documents of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the term REDD+ refers to ‘reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries’.

- Measuring and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services within REDD+
- Empowerment of the biodiversity constituency in REDD-plus processes

III. PAVILION ACTIVITIES IN CANCUN, MEXICO – UNFCCC COP 16

10. The Pavilion convened at the margins of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP16), from 29 November to 10 December 2010. Included in the Pavilion were an exhibit, a meeting space and a series of associated events, including Oceans Day and activities at Forest Day 4. The programme of events included themes such as:

- Enhancing cooperation among the Rio Conventions
- REDD+ and biodiversity
- Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation
- Protected Areas as a response to climate change
- Emerging scientific findings and ongoing dialogue with the research community
- Oceans, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and climate, including “Blue Carbon”
- Water, climate change and development:
- Designing effective financial mechanisms
- Cities and climate change:
- Gender and climate change finance

IV. PAVILION ACTIVITIES IN CHANGWON, REPUBLIC OF KOREA: UNCCD COP-10

11. The Pavilion was held in a dedicated meeting space at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP-10), from 10 to 20 October 2011, with a focus on issues of desertification and land degradation. The programme included the following thematic clusters:

- Cities in the Context of the Rio Conventions
- Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+: Contributing to the Implementation of the Rio Conventions through Avoided Deforestation
- Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change: Addressing Adaptation and Mitigation
- Sustainable Land and Water Management
- Food Security and Combating Hunger Through Sustainable Land Management
- Gender and the Rio conventions
- Engaging indigenous peoples and local communities in sustainable land management
- Poverty Reduction and the Rio conventions

V. PAVILION ACTIVITIES IN DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA: UNFCCC COP-17

12. The Department of Environmental Affairs of the Government of South Africa hosted the Pavilion in a dedicated space at the Climate Change and Response Expo. The programme included cross-cutting issues, and as in Nagoya, linkages to Land Day 5 and Oceans Day.

13. Highlights included:

- Indigenous Peoples and Local Knowledge
- Gender and the Rio conventions
- REDD+: Building capacities and safeguard lessons
- Adaptation
- Ecosystem-based adaptation in mountain regions

- Perspectives on ecosystem-based adaptation in least developed countries and small island states
- Landscape approach to adaptation
- Synergies between ecosystem and community-based adaptation
- One World - Raising awareness of climate change impacts through a musical
- Climate Smart Cities: the first Cities Day
- Land Day 5: Achieving Zero Net Land Degradation
- Business, Economics, and Synergies for the Rio conventions
- Protected Areas: Nature's Response to Climate Change

VI. OUTLOOK FOR 2012

14. A special edition of the Pavilion will convene at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – UNCSD (Rio+20), from 13 to 22 June 2012. The Pavilion at Rio +20 will provide a platform for Ministers, international organizations, heads of businesses, mayors and other local leaders, and civil society to celebrate leadership and partnership on sustainable development in policy and practice through Rio convention synergies, while taking stock of progress and challenges for the Rio conventions twenty years after their conception.

15. As with previous iterations of the Pavilion, a coordinated platform will enable learning and dialogue for key decision makers and experts from science, policy and practice, on a range of pertinent issues on the linkages between the Millennium Development Goals and the Rio conventions' objectives. Tentative thematic clusters will be aligned closely with the agenda at Rio+20, including finance and business, while also highlighting cross-cutting issues such as oceans, land, cities, gender, and indigenous and local communities. While the Pavilion will be held in a dedicated space, web streaming and social media will enable wider global participation. The outcomes from the Pavilion at Rio+20 will be taken to CBD COP-11 in Hyderabad, India, 8 to 19 October 2012.

16. The Indian government will be making a dedicated room for events of the Rio Conventions Pavilion available at COP-11. Parties and relevant organizations will be notified of opportunities related to events at the Rio Conventions Pavilion in Hyderabad in due course.