

PRESS RELEASE

Climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation and land degradation addressed as a single challenge at the Aichi Nagoya Biodiversity Summit

Nagoya, Japan, 18 October 2010: As the challenges—and solutions—to climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation and the degradation of the world’s drylands, are interlinked and cannot be addressed in a compartmentalized approach. To this end the three United Nations conventions born at the Rio Summit and the Global Environment Facility have teamed up with 15 partners including Governments, international organizations and civil society organizations to develop a platform to raise public awareness and share information at their respective conferences of the Parties in the lead up to the Rio+20 Summit .

The “Rio Conventions’ Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion – Linking biodiversity, climate change, forests and sustainable land management” will debut at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which will take place in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October. Launched during the International Year of Biodiversity, the Pavilion will provide a space for delegates, representatives from non-governmental organizations, business and civil society to discuss solutions and approaches to a range of interconnected issues over the two week period.

The Rio Conventions—the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity,—are teaming up with six national and regional governments along (Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain and the Government of Flanders) along with the European Commission, TEEB—the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme, ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability, International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas, Conservation International, and the Global Island Partnership.

The Pavilion will be virtually featured at the Cancun Climate Conference that begins at the end of November, at the Desertification Conference next year in Changwon, Republic of Korea, at the Johannesburg Climate Conference, as well as at the Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20) in 2012.

An ecosystem-based approach recognizes that nature provides for free many of the necessities for life, such as clean air, fresh water, and a wide array of species that serve as food for people. Disruption of these essential ecosystems, however, threatens the services that nature provides at little or no cost.

“The savings from a coordinated ecosystems approach to climate change, biodiversity loss, avoiding deforestation and land degradation are incalculable,” says Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary. “Protecting rainforests,” he said, “not only protects the species that live in the rainforest, but it also helps absorb the carbon dioxide emissions that are driving climate change. The Pavilion will help us see these linkages clearer and hopefully, will convince the Parties to promote joint activities at national level.”

“There is no doubt that with rising temperatures and associated impacts, there will be a greater likelihood of irreversible changes in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, with serious implications for the provision of key ecosystem services. It is therefore essential to take swift global action on climate change and to mobilize actors who are instrumental in this endeavor, not least the other two Rio conventions—the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification,” said UNFCCC Executive Secretary, Christiana Figueres.

“Climate change and biodiversity loss are major drivers of the degradation of the world’s drylands, which in turn drives biodiversity loss and exacerbates climate change,” said Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. “We must address these three challenges in a coherent and comprehensive manner if we are to address the plight of the people and ecosystems most vulnerable to their effects,” he added, noting that the drylands are home to almost a third of the world’s population, and almost one billion of these are world’s poorest people.

During the course of the two-week Conference in Nagoya, the Pavilion will feature exhibits and panel discussions on topics that include the links between forest biodiversity and adaptation and mitigation; indigenous peoples and communities, water, the role of protected areas, the economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change biodiversity loss, desertification and land degradation, and financing. Participants in the Pavilion will also be holding a set of daily briefings for the press.

For the Pavilion programme, please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/rio/ecosystemspavilion>

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