

PRESS RELEASE

Message from Nagoya to Cancun and beyond: A sustainable future is founded on climate-resilient ecosystems and communities

Cancun, Mexico, 29 November 2010. Sustainable development in a world facing climate change can only be realized if coordinated action is taken to safeguard biodiversity and manage all land sustainably. Agencies and organizations working to address these key challenges will explore this message at the “Rio Conventions’ Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion”, being held in Mexico at the Cancun Climate Conference from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

In Cancun, the programme of the Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion will highlight the fact that there are benefits for the climate change agenda, including mitigation and adaptation, to be realized from an integrated strategy that addresses the multiple drivers of biodiversity loss and land degradation. The result: increased resilience and reduced vulnerability of ecosystems to climate change, and improved livelihoods, food security, and water security for people.

“The message is clear,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “We cannot reduce biodiversity loss without addressing climate change, but it is equally impossible to effectively address climate change without conserving, restoring and sustainably using ecosystem services.”

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, confirmed these sentiments, stating: “What needs to change here is our thinking about these Conventions and how we apply them. The conventions are nothing other than the three pillars of global sustainability.”

This sentiment was underscored by Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, who said: “Indeed, a collaborative approach would yield critically and urgently needed global and local benefits among them, enabling vulnerable populations to adapt and develop resilience to the negative effects of climate change, and human and global security worldwide.”

During the course of the two-week climate-change conference, the pavilion will allow negotiators and other key decision makers, scientists, and practitioners to discuss the links between forest biodiversity and adaptation and mitigation; the role of oceans; indigenous peoples and communities, water, the role of protected areas, climate change and biodiversity loss, desertification and land degradation, and financing.

The programme in Cancun will include the following events:

- An opening event on 29 November on cooperation among the Rio conventions, organized by the three secretariats;
- REDD and biodiversity, organized by the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the European Commission;
- Blue carbon: valuing CO₂ mitigation, organized by Conservation International;
- Protected areas as a response to climate change, organized by the Mexican National Commission on Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas;
- Financing real transformation? Designing an effective financial mechanism, UNEP Finance Initiative; and
- Oceans Day on 4 December and Forests Day on 5 December.

The pavilion in Cancun will have a physical “base” at Cancun Messe, but it will also organize events at different locations and take maximum advantage of the exhibition and side event facilities kindly put in place by the Government of Mexico. Activities of Pavilion partners and other organizations will be promoted daily through a special section of the conference’s *Daily Programme* as well as on the Ecosystems Pavilion website, www.ecosystemspavilion.org

The Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion debuted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October. Over 2,500 people attended and discussed the mutual benefits of implementing the biodiversity, desertification and climate change conventions at the national level in an inter-related way.

Discussions underscored that the protection and restoration of resilient ecosystems, including drylands, are among the most cost-effective means of limiting the scale and negative consequences of climate change for both biodiversity and people/livelihoods.

In carrying out the pavilion, the secretariats of the Rio conventions—the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification—are teaming up with nine national and regional governments (Japan, Mexico, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, Grenada and the Government of Flanders), along with the European Commission and a number of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations.

For the entire Pavilion programme at the Cancun climate conference, please visit: www.ecosystemspavilion.org/en/cancun

For more information, including interview opportunities with the various partners, please contact David Ainsworth, information officer for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity: david.ainsworth@cbd.int; +1 514 561 2720 or local mobile: (52) 998 107 7063 (until 10 December 2010)

Notes for Editors Ecosystems Pavilion

The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion is a **collaborative outreach activity** involving the Rio convention secretariats, together with the Global Environment Facility and 15 other important partners, including Parties, UN and non-government organizations. These partners for Cancun include Japan, Mexico, the European Commission, Papua New Guinea, Grenada, the United Kingdom, Korea, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain, the Government of Flanders, the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, Conservation International, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The LifeWeb Initiative under the Convention on Biological Diversity is also playing a key role.

Launched during the International Year of Biodiversity, the Ecosystems Pavilion is a platform for raising awareness and sharing information about the latest practices and scientific findings on the co-benefits that can be realized through implementation of the three Rio conventions. The Ecosystems Pavilion was identified as one of several concrete initiatives to support the preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in May 2012.

Activities of the Ecosystems Pavilion are organized around major themes, including:

- Protected areas and climate change
- Indigenous people and local communities
- The linked benefits of forests for mitigation and adaptation, including through redd-plus
- Water, ecosystems and climate change
- Dryland biodiversity
- Marine, coasts and islands
- The economics of biodiversity and ecosystems services
- Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation and
- Enhancing synergies for sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

In 2011, the Pavilion will be held at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, to be held in Changwon, Republic of Korea from 10 to 21 October 2011, and at next year's climate-change conference, to be held in South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011. In 2012, it is intended that the Ecosystems Pavilion will be held at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in May 2012 and the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in India in October 2012.

Further information, including presentations, videos and interviews, is available at <http://www.ecosystemspavilion.org>.