



PRESS RELEASE

New web-based implementation tool to support forest protection and sustainable use launched by the Convention on Biological Diversity

Montreal, 20 May 2011 – In celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), a voluntary mechanism comprising 14 organizations and institutions with forest-related mandates, have called for improved coordination of biodiversity-related work. The theme for this year's International Day is the International Year of Forests and forest biodiversity. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and CPF members are encouraging others to use this day to raise greater awareness on forest biodiversity and increase practical action.

What's at risk?

Forests cover around 31% of the Earth's land surface, and are home to an estimated two thirds of all land-based species. Forests harbor a multitude of plants, animals and micro-organisms, and their associated genetic diversity. They provide many goods and services of both local and global significance. In particular, forests play an important role in the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change. The conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity is an important part of sustainable development.

Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are part of the expanded programme of work on forest biodiversity of the CBD, as well as the Global Objectives on Forests, which are included in the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests under the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). CPF members collaborate to assist in implementing these global policies and objectives.

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have developed guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests and carry out ongoing work at the country level to support their implementation. In December 2010, ITTO reported at its last International Tropical Timber Council session that a number of key tropical countries including Indonesia, Malaysia and Cameroon were implementing the guidelines, but that further workshops and projects would be needed to help implement them at a wider and deeper level. In 2010, ITTO and CBD launched a new Collaborative Initiative aiming for the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest biodiversity.

Bushmeat hunting also continues to be an important topic for of sustaining forest biodiversity. The CBD Bushmeat Liaison Group and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's (CITES) Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group will hold its first joint workshop from 7 to 10 June 2011 in Nairobi, to exchange national experiences and views about the conservation and sustainable use of bushmeat. The meeting will be convened by the Secretariats of the CBD and CITES, in collaboration with the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and with generous financial

support from the European Commission. In addition, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) and the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network (TRAFFIC) are also collaborating in the organization of the meeting.

New uses of TEMATEA to strengthen reporting on forest biodiversity

The CBD has also taken major steps to address gaps in reporting on forest biodiversity. The CBD Secretariat, with generous funding from the governments of Belgium and Norway and in consultation with CPF members, has launched a new web-based tool to support the conservation and sustainable use of the world's forest biodiversity, based on the TEMATEA platform (www.tematea.org).

The 'TEMATEA Module on Forest Biodiversity' was developed for use by governments, civil society, international organizations and staff employed by multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) related to forest issues. It will facilitate coordination and coherence in the implementation of forest-related obligations and commitments. TEMATEA Module on Forest Biodiversity is a web-based platform that will be launched on 22 May. A pre-view version for journalists is available at: www.tematea-support.com/ForestModule.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary, thanked the Governments of Belgium and Norway for their support in developing this important tool. "The conservation and sustainable use of our planet's forest resources is crucial for protecting the vast majority of terrestrial species and providing multiple ecosystem services fundamental for human welfare. The new TEMATEA Module on Forest Biodiversity will support our Parties and other key actors in implementing global and regional commitments to save biodiversity."

Parties to the CBD have repeatedly referred to TEMATEA modules as a useful tool for the implementation of the Convention and other agreements with biodiversity components. The modules structure information on obligations and commitments according to subject matter. This facilitates the work of the national experts working to ensure implementation by individual countries. At present, there are TEMATEA modules on Access and Benefit-Sharing of genetic resources, Biodiversity and Climate Change, Invasive Alien Species, and Protected Areas, and Forest Biodiversity.

Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), noted, "TEMATEA supports the overall aims of the CPF - I would like to encourage the use of the new TEMATEA forest biodiversity module to further strengthen common efforts to protect and preserve forests and sustainable forest management all over the world".



Notes to editors

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. For more information: www.cbd.int

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is a voluntary arrangement comprising 14 international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests (CIFOR, FAO, ITTO, IUFRO, CBD, GEF, UNCCD, UNFF, UNFCCC, UNDP, UNEP, ICRAF, WB, IUCN). The CPF's mission is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest and to strengthen long term political commitment to this end. CPF members share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. Joint initiatives and other collaboration activities are supported by voluntary contributions from participating members. For more information: www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/en/

TEMATEA

The TEMATEA Project on Issue-Based Modules is a joint project by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). It supports a better and more coherent national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions following a two-track approach:

- The Issue-Based Modules are web-based tools that provide a logical, issue-based framework of commitments and obligations from regional and global biodiversity-related agreements. They are based on existing articles, decisions, recommendations and resolutions from different agreements on issues that are a priority for biodiversity. Seven issues which have universal relevance and are crucial towards reaching the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are currently covered.
- The use of the Issue-Based Modules is further supported at the country level to promote national cooperation and communication across sectors and conventions. This builds capacity among national governmental and non-governmental experts to evaluate and improve their existing national implementation of biodiversity-related commitments in a coherent way.

List of agreements covered by the TEMATEA Module on Forest Biodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

www.cbd.int/convention/text/

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

www.cites.org/

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS):

www.cms.int/documents/convtxt/cms_convtxt_english.pdf

FAO's Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA)

www.fao.org/nr/cgrfa/en/

FAO's International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

www.ippc.int/

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0510e/i0510e.pdf>

International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) and relevant International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) decisions

www.itto.int/itita/

Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002

www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

www.ramsar.org/

UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)

www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/ecological-sciences/man-and-biosphere-programme/

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

www.unccd.int/convention/text/convention.php

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)

www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/drip.html

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), including the Multi-Year Programme of Work and the Non-legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests

www.un.org/esa/forests/

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

World Heritage Convention (WHC)

whc.unesco.org/archive/convention-en.pdf

WTO's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (SPS)

www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/spsagr_e.htm

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