



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

**INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011**



STATEMENT

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**THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONSULTATION AND CAPACITY
BUILDING WORKSHOP ON REDD-PLUS, INCLUDING ON
RELEVANT BIODIVERSITY SAFEGUARDS**

Singapore, 15 – 18 March 2011



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いのちの共生を、未来へ
COP 10 / MOP 5

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to convey my warm greetings to everyone gathered in Singapore for the Asia-Pacific regional consultation and capacity building workshop on REDD-plus, including on relevant biodiversity safeguards. I would like to thank our co-organizers, the National Parks Board of Singapore for hosting this workshop, and the Governments of the United Kingdom, and Germany, as well as the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity for their generous financial support. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests for their close collaboration in preparing this meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The workshop comes at a critical time when the world's forests are facing immense pressures. Our imminent challenge is nothing less than to reverse the trend of deforestation and forest degradation; restore intact forests world-wide; and thereby maintain the biodiversity of the world's forests for present and future generations.

As you are aware, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, at its tenth meetings, held in Nagoya, Japan, adopted a new strategic plan for biodiversity. The new strategic plan for the period 2011-2020 includes clear and measurable targets to achieve the objectives of the Convention in forests and other ecosystems. One target, for example, is to halve, and where feasible bring close to zero, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, and to significantly reduce degradation and fragmentation. Another target for the year 2020 is to enhance ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, and thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

The Conference of the Parties also adopted decision X/33 on biodiversity and climate change which contains several elements related to REDD-plus. The decision invites Parties and other Governments to enhance the benefits for, and avoid negative impacts on biodiversity from REDD-plus, and other sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use activities.

The decision also requests the Executive Secretary to collaborate with members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other organizations to provide advice, for approval by COP 11, including on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity, without pre-empting any future decisions taken under the UNFCCC, so that actions on REDD-plus are consistent with the objectives of the CBD. The decision further requests the Executive Secretary and to identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the Convention and assess potential mechanisms to monitor impacts on biodiversity from REDD-plus and other ecosystem-based approaches for climate change mitigation.

Pursuant to decision X/33, the objectives of this workshop are therefore to:

- consult effectively with Parties on the development of advice on relevant safeguards for biodiversity
- identify possible indicators to assess the contribution of REDD-plus to achieving the objectives of the CBD
- assess potential mechanisms to monitor REDD-plus impacts on biodiversity
- enhance the coordination of capacity-building efforts on issues related to REDD-plus

The Secretariat will compile the views expressed in the workshop and present them to the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its sixteenth meeting.

Based on the views expressed, SBSTTA may then forward recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting, to be held in India, next year. We will also inform the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice (SBSTA) at its 34th meeting and UNFCCC COP 17 about the results of this workshop. I encourage all participants, in particular government representatives, to make best use of the knowledge that will be generated by this workshop, and in the subsequent regional workshops for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, in the context of ongoing national REDD-plus activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my hope that the workshop will take place in an informal, constructive and supportive atmosphere. REDD-plus requires new solutions for persistent problems, and we have to be open and willing to learn from each other, and from our own experiences, while we aim to achieve a well-designed, fully functional and well-implemented REDD-plus mechanism that provides benefits for forest biodiversity, and for indigenous and local communities.

I regret that I am unable to be with you in person but I look forward to learning about the dialogue and views that emerge from this meeting.

The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity was a resounding success – it is now time to translate our achievements into an equally successful 2011 International Year of Forests. I thank you for your kind attention and wish you a productive workshop.
