



Convention on
Biological Diversity



**Memorandum of Understanding
between
the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
and
the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
(Extension for the period 2015-2020)**

The Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), (hereafter called “the secretariats”);

Recalling the adoption of the CBD expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity adopted at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2002 as decision IV/22, and also recalling COP decision IX/5 of May 2008 in which Parties were urged to strengthen implementation of the programme of work;

Welcoming the adoption of the resolution by the United Nations Economic and Social Council establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and recommending the formation of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);

Recalling the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 62/98 on 17 December 2007, which offers an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation to implement sustainable forest management (SFM);

Recalling the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including its forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, welcomed by the 65th session of the UN General Assembly;

Recalling the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, as well as the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests (2009) and the ITTO Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of degraded and Secondary Tropical Forests (2002);

Recalling the critical inter-relationship between the condition of tropical forests and the environmental threats such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification;



Recalling ITTC decisions 13(XXIX) and 7(XXX) in which the International Tropical Timber Council requested the Executive Director of the ITTO to explore options for a work plan with targeted joint activities with international organizations, including the CBD Secretariat;

Further recalling the direct relevance to the ITTO of activities of forest-related international organizations and processes to address conservation and sustainable use of tropical forests;

Recalling CBD decision IX/5, at which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to carry out thematic and/or regional workshops to support Parties' efforts in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity, based on the findings of the in-depth review of the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3) and that such workshops should be carried out, among others, in close cooperation with ITTO and other members of the CPF;

Welcoming the efforts of the secretariats through the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity, as their joint framework for cooperation in supporting governments in the implementation of sustainable tropical forest management and the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in tropical forests

Bearing in mind that the successful implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is subject to the availability of appropriate resources;

Extend the MoU signed on 2 March 2010 between the secretariats for an additional period of five years, from 2015-2020, with the following understanding:

1. Objective

This MoU is aimed at facilitating the implementation of activities linked to the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest biodiversity within the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2015-2016 and subsequent Work Programmes, the ITTO Thematic Programmes, the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013–2018 and any successor Strategic Action Plan; and the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in the context of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.



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2. Purpose

The key purpose of this MOU over the next five years is to:

- a. Continue to identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity between the secretariats, with the involvement of other relevant organizations;
- b. Carry out the targeted joint activities referred above through, among other things, the implementation of the CBD/ITTO Joint Collaborative Initiative on Tropical Forest Biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries and Parties to the CBD; and
- c. Assist countries to achieve sustainable forest management, reduce deforestation, recover degraded forest lands, and enhance forest protected areas.
- d. Facilitate information exchange between the secretariats

4. Focus of the work on tropical forests and biodiversity

Over the long term, areas of focus related to biodiversity conservation and tropical forests could include the following:

- a. Continue to organize joint activities under several different modalities;
- b. Promoting cooperation with other sectors;
- c. Supporting regional collaboration and South-South cooperation;
- d. Examining opportunities for harmonized reporting on sustainable use and conservation of tropical forests.

5. Resource mobilization

The secretariats should regularly consult with each other to determine the availability of resources required for implementing the activities under this MoU and the most equitable way of meeting such expenditures, if any. If resources are not available, the secretariats will consult on the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources, including opportunities for joint fundraising.

6. Duration and timeline

This extension of the MoU will commence to be effective on 1 January 2015 and ends on 31 December 2020, with possible further extension if mutually agreed, subject to availability of funds.



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Reports will be periodically presented to the appropriate meetings of the ITTC and CBD COP.

The secretariats will review the effectiveness of this arrangement on an annual basis and decide on necessary steps to keep it dynamic and effective.

Signature:



Braulio de Souza Dias
Executive Secretary, CBD

Date: 13 OCTOBER 2014



Emmanuel Ze Meka
Executive Director, ITTO

Date: 13 OCTOBER 2014