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***International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in  
Transboundary Tropical Forests***  
***Quito, Ecuador, 14-17 July 2010***

**First Announcement**

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The need to maintain large areas of tropical forests through the establishment of transboundary conservation areas (TBCAs) has long been recognized as an important activity to perpetuate ecosystems and biodiversity resources, as well as the environmental services and socio-economic benefits they provide.

Recognizing that countries have sovereign rights over their biological resources, international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD and the International Tropical Timber Agreement - ITTA are committed to enhancing technical and scientific cooperation, training and information exchange on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests.

The recently intensified debate on REDD-plus (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) has introduced additional opportunities and challenges for the conservation of forests in the context of carbon stocking in countries and regions. National and regional demonstration activities for REDD-plus are being discussed and implemented to meet the challenges for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Likewise, national and regional activities to promote forest law compliance, governance and trade (FLEGT) represent opportunities and challenges to further develop and finance the management of transboundary conservation areas for their effective contribution to long term development at local, national and regional levels.

In the last few years, various initiatives have been undertaken to support the establishment and development of TBCAs in the humid and dry areas of the tropics, with varying degree of success. ITTO alone has supported the establishment of over 10 million ha of TBCAs. This Conference will allow for an in-depth discussion of the lessons learned, benefits generated and challenges to enhance the contribution of TBCAs to biodiversity and environmental services, to indigenous and local livelihoods, and to the sustainable development of the countries and regions involved.

The International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests is organized in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity. Its results, conclusions and recommendations will be brought to the attention of participants at the CBD's Conference of the Parties (COP 10) that will be held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

### **Objectives**

The objective of the Conference is to review the status and ways ahead for the conservation, management and financing of biodiversity in tropical TBCAs. It will provide an opportunity for sharing and exchanging information and experiences on TBCAs, including their capacity to meet the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Conference will serve as a platform for stakeholders to review the social, economic and political implications and impacts of TBCA projects in order to identify best strategies for their effective contribution to sustainable development.

Specifically, the Conference intends to:

- Review the social-economic, environmental and political impacts of transboundary conservation initiatives in the tropics
- Identify best strategies for the effective conservation and management of TBCAs in biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and livelihood improvement;
- Identify opportunities for increasing funding available for TBCA projects in connection with climate financing and other initiatives;
- Make recommendations for improving formulation, management and financing of TBCA projects and programmes; and
- Raise the profile of TBCAs, highlighting major issues and challenges as an input to COP 10 of CBD which will take place in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan

### **Conference Organizers and Collaborators**

The Conference is an initiative under the Biennial Work Programme 2010-2011 of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO). It is being organized by ITTO with the support of the Government of Ecuador and in close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, and other national, regional and international partners.

### **Date and Venue**

The Conference will be held in Quito, Ecuador, 14-17 July 2010.

### **Who should attend?**

- Government officials involved primarily in forest policy formulation relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests
- Environmental NGOs, other civil society organizations, community-based organizations and other stakeholders interested in the results and impacts of transboundary conservation areas
- Scientists, researchers and academics with interest in TBCA conservation and management

### **Sponsorship**

Limited sponsorship will be available to participants who are nationals of ITTO producer member countries. Priority will be given to participants who submit quality papers that are approved for presentation.

### **Languages**

The working languages of the Conference will be English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation.

### **Call for Papers**

If you wish to present a paper or exhibit a poster, send your abstract of 200–300 words to Dr. Hwan Ok Ma ([ma@itto.int](mailto:ma@itto.int)). Abstracts should include the full name(s), address(es) of author(s), and e-mail address(es) for the corresponding author(s).

### **Deadlines:**

Submissions of abstracts	<b>20 April 2010</b>
Notification of acceptance:	<b>10 May 2010</b>
Final papers (max 10 pages: A4 size) and presentations (up to 15 slides):	<b>25 June 2010</b>

## ***International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests***

### ***Tentative Programme***

The Conference will include overarching plenary sessions covering cross-linking issues, followed by four working group sessions for sharing experiences and knowledge, and a one-day field trip supported by the Government of Ecuador.

<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Wednesday, 14 July 2010</b>
	<p><b><i>Plenary session</i></b></p> <p><i>Opening</i></p> <p><i>Keynote</i> – Why TBCAs matter in biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation</p> <p><i>Keynote</i> – New financing opportunities for tropical forest conservation</p> <p><i>Regional updates</i> – Status of TBCAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Africa, Asia, Latin America</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Sub-plenary sessions (panelists and public debate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Political and socio-economic implications of TBCAs</i></li> <li>- <i>Financing of TBCAs</i></li> </ul>
<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Thursday, 15 July 2010</b>
	<p><b><i>Plenary session</i></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Lessons learned from projects and programmes on TBCAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITTO projects in Cameroon/Gabon, Congo/Cameroon/CAR</li> <li>• ITTO projects in Malaysia/Indonesia, Cambodia/Laos/Thailand</li> <li>• ITTO projects in Ecuador/Peru, Bolivia/Peru</li> <li>• Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas</li> <li>• IUCN/CI/GTZ TBCA projects</li> </ul> <p><i>Working group sessions (four groups)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Socio-economic opportunities and challenges of TBCA projects</li> <li>- South-South Cooperation through TBCAs</li> <li>- Climate change opportunities and challenges of TBCA projects</li> <li>- Political and institutional frameworks of TBCA projects</li> </ul>
<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Friday, 16 July 2010</b>
	<p><i>Presentation of four working groups</i></p> <p><b><i>Plenary session</i></b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">TBCA conservation and management - state of the art in the tropics</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The message to CBD COP 10 and to the 46<sup>th</sup> Session of the ITTA</p> <p><i>Closing</i></p>
<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Saturday, 17 July 2010</b>
	<p><i>Field trip (to be organized by the Government of Ecuador)</i></p>

**Contact for Enquiries**

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