

Challenges, solutions and ideas about climate change, land degradation and biodiversity combined at Rio Conventions Pavilion

Changwon, Republic of Korea –The Rio Conventions Pavilion opened 10 October, as a platform to raise awareness, build capacity, and share information about the latest practices to combat climate change, halt the loss of biodiversity and reverse land degradation at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

The first sessions of the Pavilion considered securing ecosystem services for cities in the context of the Rio Conventions and the Land Degradation Assessment in Drylands project, which developed standards for assessing and monitoring land degradation.

The full Rio Conventions Pavilion Programme, which runs for two weeks, includes seminars, workshops, roundtables, networking opportunities and high-level panel discussions. Some of the topics to be addressed at the Pavilion include: sustainable forest management, ecosystem-based approaches to climate change, sustainable land and water management, food security and combating hunger, gender and the Rio Conventions, engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities in sustainable land management, and poverty reduction.

A high-level event celebrating twin United Nations Decades, on Biodiversity and on Deserts and the Fight Against Desertification, will be held on 18 October, hosted by the Minister of Environment of the Republic of South Korea.

With more than 5,000 participants expected at the [UNCCD Conference](#), the Pavilion hopes to attract large audiences. The Pavilion is organised by the Secretariats of the three Rio Conventions that emerged from the 1992 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, or the Earth Summit, which was held in Rio de Janeiro. They are: the UNCCD, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility is also a core organizer of the Pavilion, in addition to the support of other partners from the UN system, governments and civil society.

The Pavilion was launched at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010, during the International Year on Biodiversity. It was next convened at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico in December 2010. After UNCCD COP 10, the Pavilion's next destination is the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the UNFCCC, which will be held in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011. Building on the momentum of the previous meetings, the Pavilion will convene again in June 2012 at the [United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development](#), also known as Rio+20, and in October 2012 at the CBD COP 11 in Hyderabad, India.

For more information, please visit www.riopavilion.org