



Rio Conventions' ECOSYSTEMS PAVILION

Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management

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The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity involving the Rio Convention secretariats, with the Global Environment Facility and other important partners

Forest biodiversity: mitigation and adaptation - Day 4 Thursday, 21 October, Nagoya

Figuring out the forests—The bad news is that the world is still losing its forest cover at an alarming rate—an area the size of Costa Rica is lost every year, with South America accounting for the largest proportion of the loss, followed by Africa and Asia. The good news is that the rate of forest loss has dropped considerably. And at the same time, the forested areas designated for the conservation of biological diversity have increased by more than 95 million hectares since 1990 and today 12 percent of the world's forests are in protected areas. These are among the findings of FAO's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010, the most comprehensive assessment of the state of the world's forests ever undertaken, presented at the Ecosystem Pavilion by FAO's Mette Løyche Wilkie to set the stage for a day dedicated to forest ecosystems.

Forests in the drylands—It may seem counter-intuitive, but a good percentage of the world's forests are dryland forests, says Melchiade Bukuru of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and forests are one of the best ways to stop desertification. Out of 25 biodiversity hotspots, he says, eight of them are in the dry lands, including in dry forests.

Bushmeat taking a toll—About 75 per cent of the trees in tropical forests need animals, such as great apes, to disperse their seeds. But as Tim Christophersen of the CBD Secretariat says, the commercial hunting for and trade of bushmeat has dramatically reduced the number of animals in the forests, which affects the capacity of many other forest species to reproduce.

Mapping the mangroves—Being the lush link of land and forests to sea, the world mangroves are estimated to be disappearing at a rate that is to four times higher than land-based forests, according to the freshly published World Atlas of Mangroves. In fact 20 per cent of mangroves have been lost over the last 25 years due to coastal development, according to

Steven Johnson of the International Tropical Timber Organization. But mangroves have a higher economic value than other terrestrial forests, as much as US\$9,000 per hectare in terms of providing a range of benefits—including their function as a hurricane barrier in Nicaragua, where the Indigenous Miskito people have replanted mangroves with good results.



Bruce Dunn, Asian Development Bank and, Catalina Santamaria, UNFF Secretariat

It's not just about carbon and timber— While concern has initially focused on the preservation of the forest as a carbon sink, REDD-plus has the potential to catalyze financing for broader sustainable forest management investments, including public and private ones. Catalina Santamaria from the United Nations Forum on Forest Secretariat, said a 360° perspective on forest financing implies that there is value for other forest functions and services than just carbon and timber. "The United Nations Forum on Forest's forest finance strategy takes a cross-sectoral perspective involving forest and non-forest sectors, all key actors at all levels and partnership agreements".

A bigger bang for the buck— The Global Environment Facility, the largest funding

mechanism contributing to forest conservation and management, is gearing up to finance projects capable of delivering benefits from improved management of forest. Gustavo Fonseca, head of the GEF's Natural Resources Team, said the GEF has invested \$432 million in 113 projects fitting within the frame of REDD-plus and all three GEF focal areas: biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.



Gustavo Fonseca, Global Environmental Facility

Ready for REDD-plus—The Forest Investment Program, set up within the World Bank's Strategic Climate Fund, is intended to invest in projects that support improved forest management, climate change mitigation efforts, and alternative livelihoods and poverty reduction opportunities to reduce the pressure on forests. Bruce Dunn, the Asian Development Bank's representative in the program, said "We need to overcome barriers that have hindered past efforts." Pilot projects are underway in eight countries: Brazil, Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Indonesia, Laos, Mexico and Peru.

Norwegian triple win—"Promoting sustainable development and poverty reduction", Birthe Ivars, from the Norwegian Ministry of Environment said, "is an integral part of the International Climate and Forest Initiative, which gives its full support to NGOs, civil society organizations". Norway has spent hundreds of millions in grants for international REDD efforts, supporting countries ready to scale-up like Brazil or Indonesia. Fervent supporter of the TEEB study, Norway is committed to make a success of the Cancun Conference. "We are convinced that REDD mechanism will be a breakthrough," she says.

From nature to natural capital— What's the real cost of eating a beefsteak in Sao Paulo, asks Andrew Mitchell, founder and director of the Global Canopy Programme. We should value all costs, such as including the costs of the carbon emissions caused by the deforestation of the Amazon Forest for cattle pasture. According to him, forests need proactive investment and the current scale of funding for biodiversity is estimated at only US\$36-38 billion annually, with potential for up to \$141 billion. Less than half of the current funds are being spent in developing countries. Developed countries need to increase their efforts and receive more financing, "because that is where biodiversity is found." He adds: "it is doable".

Fixing the forest— According to estimates, one billion hectares of forestlands are considered as degraded worldwide. But these can be restored, says Bill Jackson from IUCN, who points to Tanzania, where, thanks to community efforts, woodlands now cover what was previously a "desert" of deforested land. And Lars Laestadius, from the World Resource Institute, says that increased efforts for large-scale forest restoration should complement efforts to halt forest loss.

The point of no return— There is evidence that forests with greater biodiversity absorb more carbon and are more resilient to environmental stresses. A "tipping-point" is the limit from which an ecosystem will not be able to recover anymore, says Ian Thompson from the Canadian Forest Service. But to figure out where that point is for a forest, several factors must be considered, including natural variation, as forests change over time naturally. Another important biodiversity indicator concerns "functional species," which are key-stone-species in an ecosystem which play critical roles.



Birthe Ivars, Norway and Andrew Mitchell, Global Canopy Programme

<http://ecosystemspavilion.org>

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed in the activities of the Ecosystems Pavilion do not necessarily reflect those of the CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC secretariats, the Parties to the Rio Conventions or other Pavilion partner organization.



Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary CBD Secretariat, Ms Mette Løyche Wilkie FAO, Ms Hanna Hoffman UNFCCC Secretariat, Mr Melchiade Bukuru UNCCD Secretariat and HE Ambassador Daniel Chuburu, Argentina.

Ecosystems Pavilion Programme Overview

18 October, Monday	<i>The linkages between biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate change</i> With the European Commission and other partners	Evening Sessions – Reducing emissions from degradation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) <i>With UNEP and other UN REDD members</i>
19 October, Tuesday	<i>Key role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies</i> With IUCN WCPA and other partners	Session 1: Inter-linkages of biodiversity, carbon and economics
20 October, Wednesday	<i>Indigenous peoples and communities – benefits and livelihoods</i> With UNDP, Conservation International and other partners	Session 2: Traditional knowledge in conserving biodiversity and carbon
21 October, Thursday	<i>Forest biodiversity: mitigation and adaptation – the linked benefits provided by forests</i> With members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners	Session 3: Environmental safeguards and REDD
22 October, Friday	<i>Water, Ecosystems and Climate Change</i> With SCBD and other partners	Session 4: Measuring and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services within REDD
23 October, Saturday	<i>UNCCD Land Day 3</i>	Session 5 (11am -1:30 pm): Empowerment of the biodiversity constituency in REDD processes
		Evening Sessions – Commitments and international cooperation for financing synergies, in partnership with CBD’s LifeWeb
25 October, Monday	<i>Economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change and land management</i> With TEEB and other partners	Session 1: Mesoamerican financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring Costa Rica Forever and other national initiatives
26 October, Tuesday	<i>Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation</i> With IUCN, ICLEI and other partners	Session 2: Caribbean and Micronesian financing synergies through protected-area solutions
27 October, Wednesday	<i>Promoting synergies for sustainable development and poverty reduction</i> With UNDP and other partners	Session 3: South American financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring the Pan-Amazonian Vision
28 October, Thursday	<i>Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Summit: Moving Towards Rio+20</i>	Session 4: West African Coastal and Marine financing synergies through protected area solutions

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