



## **Forest Dialogue climate change statement**

The Forest Dialogue (which ITTO is a founding member of) recently released a statement outlining five principles that should help to guide the forest-related post 2012 arrangements on climate change. The statement is the product of a multi-stakeholder process developed and convened by the Forest Dialogue and expresses the consensus view of more than 250 people from diverse backgrounds, who came together in various forums to debate, over a ten-month period, the role of forests in climate change and the policies being developed to foster that role. The process culminated in the Global Forest Leaders Forum in Washington, DC on 17–18 September 2008. The Forum was attended by leaders of environmental and social groups, businesses, indigenous peoples' and forest community groups, trade unions, forest owners, governments, and international organizations.

The five principles are:

1. Ensure that forest-related climate change options support sustainable development in both forest-rich and forest-poor countries.
2. Tackle the drivers of deforestation that lie outside the forests sector.
3. Support transparent, inclusive, and accountable forest governance.
4. Encourage local processes to clarify and strengthen tenure, property, and carbon rights.
5. Provide substantial additional funding to build the capacity to put the above principles into practice.

To support these principles, a set of possible actions were also formulated. The complete statement can be found on the Forest Dialogue website: <http://research.yale.edu/gisf/tfd/>.

## **Forest Day 2**

More than 800 people gathered to discuss the opportunities and challenges of bringing forests into global and national strategies for climate change adaptation and mitigation at Forest Day 2 in Poznan, Poland on December 6<sup>th</sup> 2008. The meeting took place parallel with the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 14) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fourth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP 4) held in Poland from 1-12<sup>th</sup> of December. As a follow-up to the first Forest Day in Bali, Indonesia last December, discussions continued on the strategic actions to include sustainable forest management in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities at both national and global levels. The Forest Day 2 summary statement is available at [http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf\\_files/cop/cop14/Summary-Forest-Day-2.pdf](http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/publications/pdf_files/cop/cop14/Summary-Forest-Day-2.pdf).

## **Barcoding biodiversity**

A project is underway to identify and catalogue the DNA of all living things on the planet using barcodes to be stored in a database. The database would then be accessed by anyone through the use of a barcode scanner much like the devices used in modern supermarket checkout counters, from which

Prof. Paul Herbert, a biologist from the University of Guelph in Canada was inspired. The project has over 50,000 species catalogued already and hopes to complete all of the world's bird species by 2011.

The scanner reads a section of a mitochondrial DNA gene that contains 648 pairs of nucleic acid forming the "letters" of its DNA code, which contain enough variation to distinguish between most animals. Although research is progressing rapidly with animals, 98% of which can be identified with this system, plants are taking longer due to the fact that mitochondria in plants evolved differently from animals and cannot be used to distinguish species. Also, genetic boundaries between many plant species have blurred due to hybridization. Alternate DNA barcodes are being researched for plants, with a gene called matK found in the chloroplast one possibility that is being tested.

## **Mekong's treasure trove**

A new report released in December by the World Wildlife Fund documents over 1000 species that were discovered in the rainforests and wetlands of the Mekong River in the past decade. Newly identified species include a rat thought to have been extinct for 11 million years, a cyanide producing bright pink millipede, and a spider that is as large as a dinner plate. All of these and others were found in a region that spans areas of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southern Chinese province of Yunnan.

The report of the new species called the area a "biological treasure trove" and highlights 519 plants, 279 fish, 88 frogs, 88 spiders, 46 lizards, 22 snakes, 15 mammals, four birds, four turtles, two salamanders and a toad which equal an average of two previously undiscovered species a week for the past 10 years. The report notes, however that development in the area could endanger many of these new discoveries and that a cross-border regional agreement between the countries is the best way to preserve them.

## **Debt-for-nature agreement for Peru**

Under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA), the USA and Peru recently announced an agreement to reduce Peru's debt payments to the USA by more than US\$ 25 million over the next seven years in exchange for Peru using the funds to support protection of its tropical forests.

This agreement complements an existing TFCA debt-for-nature program from 2002, as well as a debt swap under the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, and the United States-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement. These agreements will generate more than US\$35 million for conservation, making Peru the largest beneficiary under the TFCA. The USA has other TFCA agreements with Bangladesh, Belize, Botswana, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, Paraguay and the Philippines. Over US\$188million will be generated to protect tropical forests through these debt-for-nature programs.

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▶ 16 - 18 March 2009.  
**World Biofuels Markets Congress.** Brussels, Belgium.  
Contact: Valerie Giblin, Green Power Conferences, Southbank House, Black Prince Road, London, SE1 7SJ, UK;  
Tel: +44 (0)207 099 0600;  
Fax: +44 (0)207 900 1853;  
info@greenpowerconferences.com;  
www.worldbiofuelsmarkets.com/

▶ 16-20 March 2009.  
**FAO Committee on Forestry - 19th Session.** Rome, Italy.  
Contact: Douglas Kneeland, FAO Forestry Department;  
Tel: +39-06-5705-3925;  
Fax: +39-06-5705-5137;  
douglas.kneeland@fao.org;  
www.fao.org/forestry/cofo/en/

▶ 17-21 March 2009. **18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Plants Committee.** Buenos Aires, Argentina. Contact: CITES Secretariat; www.cites.org

▶ 18-20 March 2009.  
**IUFRO International Forest Biosecurity Conference 2009.** Rotorua, New Zealand.  
Contact: Amanda Davies;  
amanda.davies@innovatek.co.nz;  
http://www.forestbiosecurity.com/

▶ 30 March-9 April 2009.  
**The Fifth Session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action and the Seventh session of the AWG on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.** Bonn, Germany.  
Contact: UNFCCC Secretariat;

Tel: +49-228-815-1000;  
Fax: +49-228-815-1999;  
secretariat@unfccc.int;  
www.unfccc.int/meetings/  
unfccc\_calendar/items/2655.  
php?year=2009

▶ 1-3 April 2009. **Recreation and Health in Landscape and Forest.** Birmensdorf, Switzerland.  
Contact: Susanne Raschle,  
events@wsl.ch; http://www.wsl.ch/landscapeandhealth/index\_EN?-C=&

▶ 13-17 April 2009.  
**IV International Meeting on Sustainable Forest Development - DEFORS 2009.** Havana, Cuba. Contact: Martha González Izquierdo, gonzalez@forestales.co.cu

▶ 20 April - 1 May 2009.  
**Eighth Session of the UN Forum on Forests.** New York, USA. Contact: UNFF Secretariat;  
Tel: +1-212-963-3160;  
Fax: +1-917-367-3186;  
unff@un.org; www.un.org/esa/forests/session.html

▶ 23-24 April 2009. **Carbon Markets Americas: Unlocking Latin America's true carbon market potential.** São Paulo, Brazil. Contact: Santosh Sarma;  
Tel: +971 4 813 5213; Mobile: +971 50 880 1671; Fax: +44 207 900 1853;  
santosh.sarma@greenpowerconferences.com; www.greenpowerconferences.com/carbonmarkets/carbonmarkets\_americas\_2009.html

▶ 25-29 May 2008. **Conference on Forest Tenure, Governance and Enterprise: New Opportunities for Livelihoods and Wealth**

**in Central and West Africa.** Yaoundé, Cameroon. Contact: Eduardo Mansur (ITTO RFM);  
Tel: +81-45-223-1110;  
Fax: +81-45-223-1111;  
mansur@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp

▶ 26 May 2009. **FAO Advisory Committee on Paper and Wood Products - 50th session.** Venue to be decided. Contact: Joachim Lorbach, FAO Forest Products and Industries Division; Joachim.Lorbach@fao.org; http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/9530/en/

▶ 1-12 June 2009. **30th Sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies: The Sixth session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action and the Eighth session of the AWG on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol.** Bonn, Germany.  
Contact: UNFCCC Secretariat;  
Tel: +49-228-815-1000;  
Fax: +49-228-815-1999;  
secretariat@unfccc.int;  
www.unfccc.int/meetings/  
unfccc\_calendar/items/2655.  
php?year=2009

▶ 18-20 June 2009.  
**International Wildfire Management Conference.** Sydney, Australia. Contact: IWMCo9 Conference Managers; GPO Box 128, Sydney NSW 2001 Australia; Tel +61 2 9265 0700; Fax +61 2 9267 5443; wildfiremanagement09@tourhosts.com.au; www.wildfiremanagement09.com

▶ 6-10 July 2009. **58<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CITES Standing Committee.** Geneva, Switzerland.  
Contact: CITES Secretariat;  
www.cites.org

▶ 23-29 August 2009. **Second World Congress of Agroforestry.** Nairobi, Kenya. Contact: Dennis Garrity, World Agroforestry Centre; Tel: +254-20-722-4000;  
Fax: +254-20-722-4001;  
wca2009@cgiar.org; www.worldagroforestry.org/wca2009/

▶ 3 September 2009.  
**European Forest Institute 2009 Annual Conference.** Dublin, Ireland. Contact: Anu Ruusila, EFI; anu.ruusila@efi.int

▶ 4-5 September 2009. **Forest ecosystem management in the 21st century (seminar in connection with the EFI annual conference).** Dublin, Ireland. Contact: John Gilliland; john@ijfsolutions.com

▶ 18-25 October 2009. **XIIIth World Forestry Congress.** Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
Contact: Leopoldo Montes, Secretary-General or Olman Serrano, Associate Secretary-General. WFC-XIII@fao.org; info@wfc2009.org; www.wfc2009.org

▶ 9-14 November 2009.  
**Forty-fifth Session of the International Tropical Timber Council and Associated Committees.** Yokohama, Japan. Contact: ITTO Secretariat; Tel: +81-45-223-1110;  
Fax: +81-45-223-1111;  
itto@itto.or.jp; www.itto.or.jp

▶ 30 November - 11 December 2009.  
**Fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.** Copenhagen, Denmark.  
Contact: UNFCCC Secretariat;  
Tel: +49-228-815-1000;  
Fax: +49-228-815-1999;  
secretariat@unfccc.int;  
http://unfccc.int/meetings/  
unfccc\_calendar/items/2655.  
php?year=2009

▶ 16-28 January 2010.  
**15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to CITES.** Doha, Qatar.  
Contact: CITES Secretariat;  
www.cites.org

▶ 23-27 August 2010. **8th Flora Malesiana Symposium.** Singapore.  
Contact: Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road, Singapore 259569; Fax: +65-64674832;  
Floramalesiana2010@nparks.gov.sg; www.sbg.org.sg/fm8

▶ 23-28 August 2010. **XXIII International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO) World Congress: "Forests for the Future: Sustaining Society and the Environment".** Seoul, Republic of Korea. Contact: 2010 IUFRO Congress Organizing Committee, Korea Forest Research Institute, 57 Hoegi-ro, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul 130-712, Korea; Tel: +82-2-961-2591; Fax +82-2-961-2599; iufrococ@forest.go.kr; http://www.iufro2010.com; http://www.iufro.org.

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## Greenpeace forests for climate initiative

Greenpeace launched an international mechanism to reduce deforestation, mitigate climate change, conserve global biodiversity and protect the livelihoods of forest people with their Forests for Climate (FFC) initiative. The FFC mechanism calls on industrialized countries committed to reducing their own emissions to fund protection of tropical forests in participating developing countries that are committed to preserving their forests. The developing countries can receive funding for capacity-building efforts and for national level reductions in deforestation emissions. FFC ensures that the rights and livelihoods of local and indigenous forest people are respected.

## Oil palm plantations may drive deforestation in other ways

The continued expansion of oil palm plantations in Asia will worsen the environmental crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, unless rainforests are better protected according to a recent review published in the journal Trends in Ecology and Evolution. The study found that the biggest ecological impact was the clearance of tropical forest for oil palm, but noted that most land cover statistics are unable to distinguish where oil palm has actually driven forest clearance. The close links many oil palm companies have with timber or pulp companies may also be a contributing factor to forest clearance associated with oil palm plantation development.