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**International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and
International Year of Forests 2011**

This document provides information for Council members on activities of the Organization related to the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) 2010 and proposed activities for the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011.

International Year of Biodiversity 2010

ITTO has been particularly active during the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 to promote and raise awareness for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests. Main activities developed are briefly described below:

- In March 2010, ITTO and CBD signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding to join efforts for the development and implementation of the CBD Program of Work on Forest Biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries, and to facilitate exchange of information between the two Secretariats.
- In June 2010, ITTO in cooperation with IUCN and JICA organized a one-day conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Human Influenced Areas held in Yokohama, Japan, focusing on the promotion of the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests (ITTO Policy Development Series no. 17, 2009). The event benefited from wide participation of government agency representatives and NGO's based in Japan which are interested in the conservation of tropical forest resources.
- Also in June 2010, ITTO and the CBD Secretariats organized a side event on "Sustaining Forest Biodiversity" held in Thimphu, Buthan, as part of the 23rd Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC).
- On 21-24 July 2010 in Quito, Ecuador, ITTO, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment of Ecuador, CBD Secretariat, IUCN, Fundación Natura and Conservation International-Ecuador organized an International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests. A message from participants was developed, summarizing the outcome of the conference and recommendations made, directed to all stakeholders to support the draft COP 10 decision on transboundary protected areas and to Governments and international organizations, including ITTO and CBD constituencies to support the establishment and effective management of transboundary protected areas in providing financial, technical and policy support.
- Two special issues of the ITTO quarterly Tropical Forest Update have been prepared in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity: The first issue, developed in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat was distributed during CBD COP 10 in Nagoya in October 2010, focusing on tropical forest biodiversity. The other special issue summarizes the findings and recommendations of the International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests, held in Quito, Ecuador, in July 2010.
- One publication has been prepared under the ITTO programme for Environment Education for Children with a focus on tropical forests, climate change and biodiversity.
- ITTO sponsored a re-print of the "Good Practice Guide" published by the CBD Secretariat and the IUCN titled "Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods", which includes a description of the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests (ITTO PS no 17), as well as a full electronic copy of the Guidelines document in an attached CD-ROM.
- The Secretariats of the CBD and ITTO worked together in 2010 as co-facilitators of the CPF Working Group to advance a common message on sustainable forest management. This joint work will continue during the International Year of Forests 2011.
- ITTO Secretariat is a facilitator and co-organizer, together with the CBD, UNFF and GEF Secretariats, of the sub-plenary on Forest Biodiversity to be held in Cancun, Mexico on 5 December 2010 as part of the CPF led "Forest Day 4", a parallel event of UNFCCC COP 16.

CBD COP 10

With particular reference to CBD COP 10 held in Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010, ITTO had a very dynamic participation, including:

- Approval by the CBD COP 10 of a Decision on Forest Biodiversity which "Welcomes and supports the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as signed on 2 March 2010, which aims to strengthen implementation of the expanded

programme of work on forest biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity in tropical forests, and invites Parties, other Governments, and relevant organizations to support joint activities under the Memorandum of Understanding”.

- Signing an Exchange of Notes with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to fund project PD 577/10 Rev 1(F) Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forest Complex to Promote Cooperation for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, for an ITTO contribution of US\$ 2,051,039 of a total project budget of US\$ 2,619,441 over 3 years. The project is part of the CBD/ITTO Collaborative Initiative to promote the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries. The Collaborative Initiative is designed to attract other donors in addition to Japan, to reach out to the largest possible number of ITTO producer member countries that express interest to participate.
- Organization of a COP 10 side event on 22 October on Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests, which promoted a wide debate on: (i) the implementation of the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests by Indonesian private sector companies Sinar Mas and Alas Kusuma, (ii) the importance of sustainable forest plantations by WWF International, (iii) the results of the ITTO/CITES collaborative initiative to support ITTO producer member countries in the implementation of CITES Decisions related to tropical timber species, and (iv) presentation of the results of the International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests held in Quito, Ecuador, in July 2010.
- Organization of a one-day parallel event on 25 October titled “International Workshop on REDD+: A New Framework for Conservation of Tropical Forests - Monitoring, Biodiversity and Practices”, in partnership with Japan’s Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI).
- Organization of a COP 10 Side Event on 26 October titled “A 360 o View of Forests: People, Biodiversity, Carbon and More”, in partnership with the CBD and the UNFF Secretariats, with the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan. During this side event a Memorandum of Understanding between ITTO and the UNFF was signed, to strengthen the collaboration between the two Secretariats with special reference to the International Year of Forests 2011.
- ITTO maintained an exhibit booth during the whole duration of the Conference of the Parties in Nagoya, in which ITTO publications in English, Spanish, French and Japanese have been made available to interested participants.
- ITTO also made presentations at the following events:
 - On Monday 18 October: at the side event “The Role of Forests in Conservation of Global Biodiversity - From Japan to the World”, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries of Japan;
 - On Thursday 21 October at the Ecosystem and Climate Change Pavilion of Rio Conventions, on the Forest Biodiversity Day organized by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), ITTO participated in: (a) the launching of the World Atlas of Mangroves, with the presence of the CBD Executive Secretary followed by press conference; (b) facilitating the panel debate on “The Potential of Forest Landscape Restoration to Achieve the Rio Convention Objectives” organized by the GPLR; (c) presentation of the ITTO REDDES Thematic Programme projects at “The REDD+ Hour: Environmental Safeguards and REDD+” organized by the UN-REDD.
 - On Wednesday 27 October: Presentation at “Poverty Alleviation and Biodiversity Conservation”, a side event organized by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- The ITTO Executive Director delivered formal statements focusing on the ITTO work to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests during the REDD+ Partnership Ministerial Meeting held in the framework of COP 10 on Tuesday 26 October, and during the COP 10 High Level Segment on 28 October 2010.

International Year of Forests 2011

The lead UN agency for the IYF will be the UNFF, which will seek support from other CPF agencies for specific activities. ITTO has participated in recent CPF meetings parallel with the FAO COFO meetings in Rome (October 2010) where preliminary indications of UNFF’s plans for IYF were presented along with a logo. In the COFO discussions on planned activities for the IYF, Jan McAlpine, Director, UN Forum on Forests (UNFF), said “Forests 2011” should be a celebration of the positive things related to forests and their role for people, highlighting biodiversity, climate and health. She

explained that the UNFF, as the focal point for the UN system during IYF, will be working closely with the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), and major groups, as well as artists and filmmakers.

UNFF also sought support for various activities from partners, including ITTO. A request was included in the 2010-11 Biennial Work Program ("Participate in and co-sponsor events and activities for the implementation of the International Year of Forests (IYF) 2011") for \$150,000 to fund such activities. This item remains unfunded. The following sections contain Secretariat proposals for activities to be carried out by ITTO during the IYF using existing resources, followed by a proposed list of additional activities which could be considered if funding under the Biennial Work Program (BWP) item is made available. Since one of the key objectives of the IYF is to increase understanding of and support for forests globally, ITTO is keen to work with its member countries to showcase the many important activities that have taken place at the field level, both in the past and prospects for the future. Members are therefore invited to share their plans for the IYF during this agenda item and to liaise with the Secretariat during 2011 to ensure that, where possible, ITTO can participate in and contribute to country-led initiatives for the IYF. Members are also invited to propose additions and/or deletions to the lists below.

Activities to be undertaken with existing resources

- Use of IYF logo on all ITTO outputs during the year (TFU, Technical Series documents, 2010 Annual Report and Annual Review, etc)
- Linking ITTO website with IYF site
- Special TFU issue with relevant CPF and other partner input (depends on funding for TFU project)
- 2010 Annual Report with possible special section on ITTO success stories (see below, depends on funding for Communications and Outreach under 2010-11 BWP)
- Launch of SFM Tropics 2010 report and associated public relations events in selected countries
- Publication of revised SFM Guidelines
- Asian forest tenure conference (half of \$400,000 budget available)
- Production of posters, pamphlets, calendar and other materials (depends on funding for Communications and Outreach under 2010-11 BWP)

Activities to be undertaken if resources are available

- Two or three regional meetings to celebrate entry into force of ITTA 2006 and 25th anniversary of ITTO's founding during 2011
- Publication of ITTO success stories focusing on successful field projects to promote SFM (possibly together with 2010 or 2011 Annual Report to reduce costs; see above)
- High-level regional forum in conjunction with the 47th ITTC Session proposed for Guatemala
- Co-sponsoring proposed UNFF-led conference on community forest and income generation
- Co-sponsoring other selected UNFF-led initiatives such as forest film festival, forest art exhibition, etc.
- Side-events and participation at UNFF9, UNFCCC COP 17, Forest Day 5 and other important forest fora
- Participation in and contributions to country-led initiatives
- Preparation of a public service announcement for airing in relevant media (in collaboration with UNFF and other CPF partners)
- Preparation and publication of educational materials showing the importance of tropical forests (through ITTO's CEEP program)
- Launching of a forest conservation project under public-private partnership in Chico Mendes Reserve, Acre State, Brazil; and possible support to Acre State celebrations of the International Year of Forests
- Implement relevant activities under ITTO's 2010-11 BWP that are currently unfunded and will contribute to the objectives of IYF