
International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Transboundary Tropical Forests

Quito, Ecuador, 21-24 July 2010

Objectives and Tentative Programme



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 signatory states of these legally binding agreements are committed to the sustainable use and conservation of their forest biodiversity resources, and willing to improve governance, law compliance, trade and market transparency to promote sustainable development with long term conservation of natural resources.

In the last few years, various initiatives have been undertaken to support the establishment and development of transboundary conservation areas (TBCAs) in the humid and dry areas of the tropics, with varying degree of success. The International Tropical Timber Organization (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 law compliance, biodiversity conservation and generation of environmental services; to the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities, to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, for overall the sustainable development of the countries and regions involved.

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.

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.



Biodiversity is life
Biodiversity is our life

Objectives

The objective of the Conference is to review the status and ways ahead for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical TBCAs, including their management and financing. The Conference 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 aims 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 as well as in the enhancement of forest law enforcement and governance;
- Identify opportunities for increasing funding available for TBCA projects in connection with climate financing, forest law compliance, international agreements and conventions, and others, including the CBD's LifeWeb Initiative;
- 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 in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, in conjunction with the in-depth review of CBD programme of work on protected areas

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 under the patronage of the Government of Ecuador, and in close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, IUCN, Conservation International (CI-Ecuador) and Fundación Natura.

Date and Venue

The Conference will be held at Hotel Colón in Quito, Ecuador, 21- 24 July 2010.

Who should attend?

- Government officials involved in forest policy formulation relating to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical forests, especially those interested in transboundary conservation and forest law compliance.
- Environmental NGOs, other civil society organizations, community-based organizations and other stakeholders interested in the results and impacts of transboundary conservation areas for socio-economic, legal, institutional and ecological aspects.
- Scientists, researchers and academics with interest in the conservation and management of TBCA's.

Languages

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

Registration

To register for the Conference, please see the information notes on the Conference. Please download the registration form on the ITTO website at http://www.itto.int/en/workshop_detail/id=2245 and send the completed registration form to: (a) Ms. Lorena Coronel, Fundación Natura Quito, Fax: (593-2) 2272-863 or by e-mail: lcoronel@fnatura.org.ec; with copy to ITTO Secretariat, Yokohama, Japan, fax: (81-45) 223 1111 or by e-mail: rfm@itto.int.



Convention on
Biological Diversity



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Tentative Programme

Day 1	Wednesday, 21 July 2010
	<p>Plenary session</p> <p><i>Opening ceremony</i></p> <p><i>Keynote addresses</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why TBCAs matter in biodiversity conservation and climate change • Relevance of TBCAs for forest law enforcement, governance and trade • New financing opportunities for tropical forest conservation <p><i>Regional updates – Status of TBCAs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa, Asia, Latin America <p><i>Sub-plenary sessions (panellists and public debate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political and socio-economic implications of TBCAs • Forest law enforcement and governance in TBCAs • Financing of TBCAs
Day 2	Thursday, 22 July 2010
	<p>Plenary session</p> <p><i>Lessons learned from projects and programmes on TBCAs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITTO projects in Cameroon/Gabon, Congo/Cameroon/CAR • ITTO projects in Malaysia/Indonesia, Cambodia/Laos/Thailand • ITTO projects in Ecuador/Peru, Bolivia/Peru • IUCN / CI / GTZ / Fundación Natura TBCA projects • Implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas <p><i>Working group sessions (four groups)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic opportunities and challenges of TBCA projects • South-South Cooperation through TBCAs • Climate change opportunities and challenges of TBCA projects • TBCA's contribution to forest law enforcement and governance, and fair trade of tropical forest products and services
Day 3	Friday, 23 July 2010
	<p>Plenary session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of four working groups • TBCA conservation and management - state of the art in the tropics • The message to CBD COP 10 and to the 46th Session of the ITTC <p>Closing ceremony</p>

Day 4	Saturday, 24 July 2010
	<p><i>Field trip to the Cotopaxi National Park</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departure from Hilton Colon Quito Hotel at 8:00 a.m. • Drive through “avenue of the volcanoes” • First stop at the Cotopaxi NP information center “Mariscal Sucre” • Continue to “Limpiopungo” lagoon • Arrive at the first safe house at 4,500 meters above sea level. • Lunch at Hacienda “La Cienega” • Return to Quito and to Hilton Colon Quito Hotel – around 6 p.m. <p>More information on the field trip is available from ITTO website</p>

Contact for Enquiries

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