



www.cbd.int



www.itto.int

PRESS RELEASE

Signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding between the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) – the only United Nations treaty-based organization headquartered in Japan and focused in tropical forests – and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the objective of developing and implementing joint activities for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity in the tropics, on Tuesday, 2 March 2010 in Tokyo, during a Special Event on Biodiversity.

The MoU is organized in the framework of the International Year on Biodiversity 2010 and shall support the implementation of the ITTO Work Programme and Action Plan; as well as the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity. The Memorandum of Understanding is designed for a timeframe of at least four years and identifies activities on forests and biodiversity between ITTO and CBD with involvement of other relevant organizations.

Some concrete activities already planned for 2010 and 2011 are:

- Development and implementation of joint activities in the context of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the 2011 International Year of Forests (IYF), including collaboration on the seamless bridging of the closing of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and the launch in 2011 of the International Year of Forests;
- Organization of an International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Trans-boundary Tropical Forests (14-17 July 2010, Quito, Ecuador);
- Development, use and dissemination of publications of common interest, including the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests, and the CBD/IUCN Good Practice Guide on Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods;
- Organization of a side event on conservation of forest biodiversity in tropical timber production forests at CBD's 10th Conference of the Parties (COP 10) that will be held in Nagoya in October 2010.
- Development of a support programme for the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in ITTO producer member countries, similar to the ITTO programme for support of implementation of CITES Decisions related to tropical timber species.

ITTO is a partner with the CBD for the International Year of Biodiversity. For more information on CBD and its activities related to forests, visit www.cbd.int

