



Biodiversity Sub-plenary Session Synergies in policy and practice

5 December 2010, Cancun Center, Conventions and Exhibitions, Boulevard Kukulcan, Cancún

"The natural world in which we live is nothing short of entrancing — wondrous really. Personally, I take great joy in sharing a world with the shimmering variety of life on earth. Nor can I believe any of us really want a planet which is a lonely wasteland."
Thomas Lovejoy



The aim of this session at Forest Day 4 is to bring together a group of key experts and decision makers to identify and promote synergies between efforts to safeguard biodiversity, tackle climate change, and implement sustainable forest management. We will discuss achievements of the International Year of Biodiversity, and identify further opportunities for synergies in policy and practice during the International Year of Forests in 2011 and towards Rio+20 in 2012.

Encouraging examples exist of the inclusion of biodiversity objectives in pilot and demonstration activities for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), as well as in national climate change adaptation efforts. The session will build on successful efforts at national level to conserve, restore and sustainably use forest biodiversity in support of climate change mitigation and adaptation, and it will identify how the international policy framework could further support such synergies.

Key note address:

"Forests and Climate Change: Ecological versus Political Realities" by Thomas Lovejoy, President of the Heinz Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment

A high level panel will address the following issues:

1. How are national governments mainstreaming biodiversity objectives into REDD+ pilot and demonstration activities?
2. How can countries harness the potential of forest biodiversity for climate change adaptation?
3. How can the international policy framework better support countries in their efforts to achieve biodiversity and climate change synergies?
4. What opportunities for forest biodiversity lie ahead in the International Year of Forests 2011 and towards Rio +20 in 2012, and how can we best use them?

Panelists:

- Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Minister of National Heritage, Ecuador
- Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action
- Jose Sarukhan, President, CONABIO, Mexico
- Vicky Tauli-Corpuz, TEETEBBA (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)



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