



Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
between the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
and the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)
(2010-2015)

I. Preamble

The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) (hereafter called the Secretariats);

Recalling the adoption of the resolution 2000/35 on 18 October 2000 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council establishing the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and recommending the formation of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF);

Recalling also the establishment of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) pursuant to the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA), 1983, adopted on 18 November 1983;

Noting the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (Forest Instrument) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, Resolution 62/98 on 17 December 2007, which offers an integrated framework for national action and international cooperation to implement sustainable forest management (SFM);

Noting also ITTC Decisions 13 (XXIX) and 7 (XXX) on the role of ITTO in international and regional organizations and fora in which the International Tropical Timber Council requested the Executive Director of the ITTO to explore the ways and means for cooperation with international and regional organizations and fora, including the UNFF;

Recognizing UNFF's role in facilitating the implementation of the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (hereafter the Forest Instrument) within the context of its Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the period 2007-2015, to advance the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and achieve progress towards the implementation of the four global objectives on forests;

Recognizing also ITTO's role in administering and supervising the operation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement of 2006, through its Action Plans, Biennial Work Programmes and Thematic Programmes, for the promotion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests and the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests.

Reaffirming paragraph 4(h) of the Resolution of the Eighth Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests to synthesize, in cooperation with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, current information on studies and implementation activities related to the recognition of the range of values derived from goods and services provided by all

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types of forests and to reflect such values in the marketplace in the context of the overall theme of UNFF 10 on forests and economic development;

Recalling the ITTO Action Plan (2008-2011) and relevant decisions of the ITTC on the ITTO Biennial Work Programmes and Thematic Programmes,

Noting that the Forest Instrument and various resolutions of the UNFF recognize the important role of community forests in fostering sustainable forest management which in the long term can result in social, economic and ecological benefits

Noting also ITTO's work on community forestry through projects and the approaches it has developed, culminating in the implementation of the Thematic Programme on Community Forest Management Enterprises (CFME) aimed, inter alia, at contributing to poverty alleviation in tropical timber producing areas;

Recognizing ITTO's experience in promoting the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources through its policy work, project activities, biennial work programmes and thematic programmes, and the collation and dissemination of market information;

Recognizing also the economic, environmental and social significance of the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources in contributing towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals;

Noting the UNGA Resolution 61/93 adopted on 20 December 2006 declares 2011 as the International Year of Forests (IYF);

Noting also the advantages of identifying a framework for joint cooperation between the two Secretariats that would enhance support to governments in implementing SFM and promoting trade in forest products from sustainable sources, in order to improve livelihoods including, in particular, local communities and indigenous people;

Recalling the adoption of the Means of Implementation on Sustainable Forest Management (Forest Financing) on 30 October, 2009 at the Special Session of UNFF9;

Have reached the following understanding:

II. Objective

The objective of this MOU is to enhance cooperation and collaboration between the Secretariats and facilitate the implementation of the Forest Instrument and the UNFF MYPOW as well as the ITTO Action Plans, Biennial Work Programmes, and Thematic Programmes.

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The key purpose of the MOU over the period 2010-2015 is to:

- a. Identify gaps and challenges relating to community forestry as well as to develop and implement targeted joint activities on promoting community-based forest enterprises for sustainable development and poverty alleviation in forest communities.
- b. Identify, develop and implement joint activities on promoting markets for community-based forest enterprises;
- c. Identify, develop and promote tools for the full valuation of forest products and services, in particular environmental services and non-timber forest products and the extent to which timber can benefit from the emerging green economy.
- d. Identify and implement joint activities in tropical timber producing countries in conjunction with the International Year of Forests (2011)
- e. Facilitate effective and continuing information exchange between the Secretariats.

III. Focus of the Work

Based on the programmes of work and available resources of the UNFF and ITTO Secretariats, the scope of cooperation may include:

- a. Working cooperatively on the development and implementation of programmes that are supportive of community-based forest enterprises, particularly in strengthening their capacity for sustainable forest management, production, processing and marketing of forest products and services. This activity will also seek to develop leadership within the communities and provide opportunities for sharing information and lessons learned on the development and management of community forest enterprises;
- b. Utilizing opportunities offered by the International Year of Forests in 2011 to improve communications and outreach programmes for forests, particularly in raising awareness of the important links between forests and the environment, employment creation, poverty reduction and the achievement of the Internationally Agreed Development Goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;
- c. Working cooperatively to gain a better understanding of the potential contribution of the forest sector to the green economy and develop appropriate tools to support governments, the private sector and communities;
- d. Working together in collaboration with other CPF members on forest financing and improving the flow of resources for sustainable forest management;
- e. Supporting technology transfer through North-South, South-South and Triangular Cooperation;
- f. Collaborating to advance the understanding of the cross-sectoral nature of forests;
- g. Continuing to second an ITTO staff/consultant to the UNFF Secretariat, to perform the functions of the Principal Trade Officer for a period of 2 years (2011-2013), subject to availability of funds to be mobilized through a joint fund raising effort. The arrangement may be further extended subject to the availability of funds and consent by the Secretariats. This secondment will be in accordance with the Inter-Agency Agreement concerning secondment or loan of staff among the organizations applying the United Nations Common System of salaries and allowances.


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IV. Duration and monitoring

The MOU will be applicable until 31st December 2015, and may be extended by mutual agreement and subject to availability of funds.

A mid-term review of the MOU will be undertaken in 2013.

The signatories to this MOU and/or their representatives will meet each year, taking advantage of meetings which they will attend, to review the activities and effectiveness of the arrangement and decide on the necessary steps to keep it dynamic and effective.

V. Resource Mobilization

The Secretariats will regularly consult to determine the availability of resources required for implementing the activities under this MOU and the most equitable way of meeting such expenses, including through joint fund raising campaigns.

VI. Final provisions

The Secretariats may amend the MOU. The amendment will become effective on the date when the accepting Secretariat communicates its written consent to the other Secretariat

This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the Secretariats.

Signature:



Emmanuel Ze Meka
Executive Director, ITTO Secretariat

Date: **26 OCT 2010**



Jan L. McAlpine
Director, UNFF Secretariat

Date: **26 OCT 2010**
