

## **US\$5.4 million in new funds for tropical forests**

### **41st Session of the International Tropical Timber Council**

**6–11 November 2006**

Yokohama, Japan

At its 41st session, the International Tropical Timber Council committed over US\$5.4 million for new projects and activities for the conservation and sustainable management, use and trade of tropical forest resources. The funds pledged at the session are in addition to the US\$6.1 million committed in June at the 40th Council session, bringing the total pledged in 2006 to over US\$11.5 million.

The Council financed eleven projects and seven pre-projects at this session (see page 18 for descriptions). Additional funds were also allocated to help improve the capacity of ITTO member countries to implement CITES listings of timber species, including a US\$3 million grant from the European Community. This CITES work was one of the many activities included in the Council's review of progress in implementation of ITTO's 2006–2007 Work Programme. Another activity under the Work Programme, to monitor the relationship between climate change and tropical forests, received additional funds to allow for preparation of a report on recent developments in climate change negotiations and the implications for tropical forests. The Freezailah Fellowship Fund was also topped up by Council (see page 23 for a list of fellowship awardees), to allow this valuable program to continue offering awards to deserving candidates.

The Council extended its governing treaty, the ITTA, 1994, and decided to regularly review the status of ratification of the successor agreement (ITTA, 2006) by members at its upcoming Sessions. The Council also finalized the procedure for selection of a new Executive Director, as the position will become vacant in November 2007 (see page 32 for ITTO vacancy listings).

The major donors at this session were the governments of Japan, Switzerland, the United States and France, while the Common Fund for Commodities and the governments of Finland, Norway, Australia, the Republic of Korea and the Netherlands also pledged funds. In addition, funds were mobilized from the Organization's unearmarked resources, including the Bali Partnership Sub-account B.

## **Fellow cooperation**

### **16th Meeting of Senior Fellowships Officers of the United Nations System and Host Country Agencies**

**6–8 November 2006**

Paris, France

The Senior Fellowships Officers (SFOs) of the United Nations System and representatives of National Placement and Supervising Agencies meet biennially to exchange views on the operational and administrative aspects of their fellowship programs, harmonize practices and procedures in fellowship administration and discuss common challenges of the fellowship programs. The 16th Meeting of SFOs was organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA) as the Focal Point for Inter-Agency

Fellowship Coordination and hosted by UNESCO. About 40 representatives from organizations attended the meeting.

Participants discussed various issues, such as (i) south-south cooperation and its impact on training and fellowships, (ii) the role of national placement and supervising agencies in implementation of fellowship programs of UN agencies, (iii) the UN fellowship website and new global newsletter, (iv) new partnership programs with academic institutions, foundations, NGOs and the private sector, and (v) fellowship evaluation.

**South-south cooperation:** WHO reported that a comparable environment for fellows, cost-effectiveness and building capacity in training institutions in the South are added values of such cooperation. It was noted, however, that South-South cooperation does not replace North-South cooperation; it adds a new dimension of triangular cooperation (south-south collaboration supported by development partners in the North).

**The role of national placement and supervising agencies:** These agencies in the North can serve as liaisons among training institutions in the North and South in addition to their traditional role of placing UN fellows in their respective countries. UN agencies were encouraged to share information on training institutions and centers of excellence in the South for posting on the common UN/DESA fellowship website.

**UN fellowship website and new global newsletter:** UN/DESA informed participants that they have updated their fellowship website so that now all UN system fellowship programs are linked, and a new global newsletter for the UN fellowship program can be accessed from the website (<http://esa.un.org/techcoop/fellowship.asp>). UN agencies were also encouraged to use the e-forum designed by UN/DESA to conduct e-conferences on issues of common interest.

**New partnership programs:** Partnerships in training have become an integral part of the work of the UN systems. Partnerships are designed to promote the sharing and coordination of resources and expertise. UNESCO presented its successful experiences of establishing co-sponsored fellowship programs funded by extra-budgetary resources with governments, non-governmental organizations and private partners. The World Bank also presented a successful partnership programs with academic institutions in various countries funded by the government of Japan and reported the importance of its alumni association of former fellows to establish long-term links with development practitioners.

**Fellowship evaluation:** the meeting recognized that needs of developing countries are shifting from capacity building to capacity enhancement. Therefore, their training programs must be designed to take into account local situations and meet the needs of beneficiaries. Consequently, fellowship evaluation has become a very important issue. The meeting recommended the creation of a task force on impact assessment of fellowships to be chaired by WHO with the support of other organizations. The task force will indicate how to measure success of fellowship programs, identify appropriate indicators for proper evaluation, develop an evaluation framework and evaluation methodology according to result-based budgeting or equivalent principles, and propose an enhanced format for fellow's final reports. The results will be presented at the 17th meeting to be held in Rome in 2008.

*Reported by Chisato Aoki, ITTO Secretariat*

## CDM opportunities for Africa

### Workshop on creating awareness in Africa on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) forestry projects

2–5 October 2006

Accra, Ghana

This workshop was approved in November 2005 by the International Tropical Timber Council and financed as ITTO PROJECT PD 337/05 REV.3 (F) submitted by the Government of Ghana, to be executed by the Ghana Forestry Commission (GFC). The workshop was attended by over 80 delegates from ITTO producer and consumer member countries from Africa, Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) member countries in Africa and representatives from Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Delegates were drawn from forestry agencies and Designated National Authorities (DNAs) for CDM. In all, 42 African countries were represented at the Workshop. Speakers were drawn from the Joannuem Institute, CIFOR, Intercooperation, UNDP, COMIFAC, Corporacion Ecovera (Colombia), FAO, UNFCC, EcoSecurities, ITTO and the African Development Bank.

The workshop aimed to:

- create awareness of CDM opportunities for Africa;
- identify current trends and potential impacts of carbon forestry on the global forest sector, with an emphasis on Sub-Saharan African tropical timber producing countries;
- explore opportunities and challenges for the effective participation of Sub-Saharan African tropical timber producing countries in CDM projects and other carbon forestry activities;
- develop carbon accounting models for sub-Saharan African tropical forest ecosystems and other carbon credits verification and certification systems;
- explore the potential for establishing carbon emissions trading markets for Africa; and
- consider emerging issues such as reducing carbon emissions from deforestation.

The major outcome of the workshop was enhanced appreciation of the significant opportunities available to Africa under the Kyoto Protocol's CDM in attracting new and additional investments in support of forestry and renewable energy projects. The role of forestry and renewable energy projects in contributing to the mitigation of global warming was thoroughly explained, as well as the methodologies for identifying and developing eligible projects.

The main recommendation from the workshop was the need to urgently increase Africa's capacity in the identification and preparation of CDM projects. Participants recommended that ITTO urgently consider follow-up work on capacity building in CDM project formulation by taking advantage of the momentum generated by the workshop.

Other key workshop recommendations were as follows:

- Donor countries and multilateral institutions are encouraged to fund a pre-COP 12 meeting between African negotiators and representatives of EU, Japan and other Annex 1 countries on African specific issues for the coming negotiations.

- ITTO is encouraged to explore the possibility of a side event at COP 12 to report on the recommendations of this workshop so as to further elevate African priorities, issues and concerns related to CDM.
- ITTO is encouraged to facilitate regional workshops aimed at increasing the capacities in producer countries for the appropriate use of the CDM in the forest sector.
- Public awareness of the value of CDM in the forest sector should be enhanced.
- African countries should be supported to build capacity and to enhance their knowledge of forestry issues in the climate change negotiations, especially on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and afforestation and reforestation in the CDM to ensure that their priorities and needs are addressed.
- Multilateral institutions should give priority to the role forest ecosystems and the forest sector play in adapting to climate change.
- Multilateral institutions should jointly explore with national partners the potential that Programmatic CDM can offer in facilitating and reducing transaction costs for afforestation and reforestation (A/R) CDM projects in Africa. Programmatic CDM allows non-Annex 1 countries to formulate national level programs that include CDM activities in specific sectors.
- African countries should address the issue of land tenure and property rights so as to facilitate CDM investments in Africa, including trading certified emission reduction certificates (CERs) from forestry projects.
- African countries need support in building up capacities in the appropriate use of approved methodologies and other tools with regard to A/R CDM project activities.
- Multilateral institutions should simplify procedures for accessing funding for the preparation of A/R CDM project activities
- The European Union is encouraged to consider the inclusion of forestry CERs in the EU's Emissions Trading Scheme post 2012.
- Multilateral institutions are encouraged to explore options for facilitating the participation of the African francophone communities in the preparation of A/R CDM projects, starting with translating the approved methodologies and tools into French.
- Serious consideration should be given to developing further the concept of 'committed forests as carbon reservoir' and the inclusion of CERs from committed forests in carbon trading.
- Multilateral institutions and potential CER buyers are strongly encouraged to organize a workshop to consider potential project ideas from African countries.

*The report of the workshop will be available from the ITTO Secretariat when published.*

*Reported by Kwame Asumadu, Consultant to the government of Ghana for Project PD 337/05 Rev.3 (F)*