

ITTO-JICA Side event for TICAD V
“Efforts to advance sustainable management of African forests”

1. Background

Forests in Africa occupy about 23% of the total land area. Reflecting the varied climatic, geological and socio-economic conditions, diversified forest ecosystems and landscapes are found throughout the continent. In each of the unique sub-regional, national and local circumstances, forests provide multiple goods and ecosystem services essential for the livelihood of the people and the development of societies and economies in Africa.

In order to support the efforts of African countries to sustain forests, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) have carried out various cooperative and collaborative activities with African countries together with other public and private development partners. Despite the efforts of African countries and the partners, however, deforestation and forest degradation still continues at an alarming rate in Africa.

On 1-3 June 2013 in Yokohama, Japan, the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) will be convened. At TICAD V, heads of state and senior officials of African countries and their development partners, including ITTO and JICA, will meet to have high-level policy dialogues and to mobilize support to African countries. TICAD V will provide the international community with a unique opportunity to renew commitment and momentum and further enhance support toward sustainable management of African forests.

2. Objectives

The major objectives of this side event on “Efforts to advance sustainable management of African forests” are:

- To highlight the efforts of ITTO and JICA together with African countries and stakeholders to pursue sustainable management of African forests through the implementation of various cooperative and collaborative activities; and
- To propose and discuss a new cooperative and collaborative initiative named “TREES Initiative”, which stands for “Total Approach for Natural Resource Management, REDD+, Ecosystem Conservation and Sustainable Development”, to further advance sustainable forest management in Africa.

3. Date and time

Saturday, 1 June 2013, 17:30-19:00

4. Venue

Room B, Annex Hall, Pacifico Yokohama
1-1-1 Minato-mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama 220-0012, Japan

5. Organization & Agenda

The side event is co-organized by ITTO and JICA, and will be supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan and the City of Yokohama.

The major components of the side event are:

- Opening address by H.E. Toshiko Abe, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan;
- Keynote presentation by Mr. Emmanuel Ze Meka, Executive Director of ITTO
- Presentation on the monitoring, assessment and reporting of African forests with the use of ATO/ITTO Principles, Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of African Tropical Natural Forests (PCI) given by Mr. Olivier Ahimin, ITTO Project Coordinator;
- Presentation on the challenges to improve the management of protected forests in the Congo Basin through the implementation of trans-boundary conservation projects given by Mr. Jean-Pierre Agnangoye, Executive Secretary of the Network of Protected Areas in Central Africa (RAPAC);
- Presentation on the challenges to sustainably utilize production forests in Africa through the promotion of intra-African trade of tropical timber and timber products by Mr. Collins Ahadome, Officer in Charge of the Division of Operations of ITTO;
- Presentation on the sustainable management of arid and semi-arid African forests through the promotion of community-based approach by Dr. Ben E.N. Chikamai, Director of the Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI);
- Presentation on the conservation and sustainable management of forests in the South African sub-region through the cooperation between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and various partners by Mr. Nyambe H. Nyambe, Senior Programme Officer, Natural Resource Management Directorate for Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Southern African Development Community (SADC);
- Introduction of the “TREES Initiative” and a panel discussion facilitated by Mr. Hiroki Miyazono, Senior Advisor of JICA on the TREES Initiative; and
- Closing remarks by Hiroto Arakawa, Vice-President of JICA.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into English, French and Japanese.

6. Contacts

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