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**ITTO-CBD COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE FOR
TROPICAL FOREST BIODIVERSITY**

PROGRAMME DOCUMENT FOR 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Tropical forest biodiversity in production landscapes is of paramount importance in the global biodiversity strategy as it not only represents a significant reservoir of species diversity but also plays a crucial role in supporting ecosystem stability, carbon sequestration, and essential ecosystem services vital for societal and ecological well-being.

In 2009, ITTO published joint guidelines with IUCN for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in tropical timber production forests. These guidelines replaced the 1993 guidelines on the conservation of biological diversity in tropical timber production forests.

In 2011, ITTO and CBD signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which had been in force until 2021. This MOU was supported by the "ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity" programme. From 2011 to late 2020, the Collaborative Initiative implemented 16 projects with a total budget of about USD 13 million. These were conducted in 23 tropical countries, all of which have experienced declines in forest area and losses of biodiversity and have large numbers of forest-dependent people.

In February 2021, ITTO and the CBD extended their partnership through the renewal of the MOU, promoting their collaborative efforts until 2025. Building upon this long-term partnership and in alignment with the global commitment specified in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted during CBD COP 15 in December 2023, the programme document for the implementation of the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity has been updated for the period of 2024-2025, reaffirming the commitment to tropical forest biodiversity conservation.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Background

Preceding the 2010 Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Nagoya, Japan, and in the framework of the International Year of Biodiversity 2010 and the International Year of Forests 2011, ITTO and the CBD signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which had been in force until 2021. This MOU was supported by the “*ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity*” programme, which was designed to strengthen collaboration in the pursuit of their common objectives of conserving and sustainably managing tropical forest resources, with a particular focus on protected areas and production forests.

The Collaborative Initiative was designed to provide support to ITTO member producer countries to reduce the loss of biodiversity, through the implementation of projects focusing on the common objectives of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013-2018, the CBD Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity (2002), and with a focus on the joint objectives of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Targets (specifically targets 5, 7, 11 and 15). In 2010, the CBD and ITTC adopted decisions welcoming the ITTO-CBD collaboration (CBD COP Decision X/36 and ITTC Decision 6 (XLVI)).

2. Assessment of the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative for tropical forest biodiversity (2011-2020)

From 2011 to late 2020, the Collaborative Initiative implemented 16 projects, 10 completed and 6 ongoing, with a total budget of about USD 13 million. These were conducted in 23 tropical countries, all of which have experienced declines in forest area and losses of biodiversity and have large numbers of forest-dependent people. The 16 projects implemented included four in Africa, six in Asia, five in Central/South America, and one in Oceania. Among the 16 projects, eight dealt primarily with sustainable forest management (SFM), although seven of these were associated with designated reserves (protected area, Ramsar, or Biosphere); four involved transboundary protected areas; and two projects funded the improved education for foresters to include biodiversity concerns under projects in sub-Saharan Africa and South America.

In 2021, an evaluation examined the results from the 16 projects. This evaluation found that the Initiative was highly relevant to the current global processes that have goals, objectives, and targets to improve forest management, increase forest cover across landscapes, and mitigate climate change. Specifically, these processes are the CBD Aichi Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs), the Global Forest Goals, and the ITTO Strategic Action Plan objectives. The 16 ITTO-CBD projects contributed to each of these processes, by meeting several of the objectives. For example, the projects together contributed to six of the SDGs: all of the projects contributed to SDG 15, with particular emphasis on Targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.5, and 15.9, and most contributed to 12.2, all dealing with forest ecosystems. Many of the projects also worked to reduce poverty (Target 1.1), through development of alternative livelihoods or by working towards longer-term forest improvements. All projects contributed to climate change mitigation through avoided deforestation, better forest management, or forest restoration (SDG 13). Four projects applied to SDG 5.5, with their strong emphasis for women in the development of alternative livelihoods. The four landscape level projects were all, in part, meant to improve water flows and water quality and so were a contribution to SDG 6.6. Overall, the Initiative resulted in an impact for six of the CBD Aichi Targets, nearly equally among Targets 1 (awareness-raising), 5 (reducing habitat loss), 7 (SFM), 11 (protected area management), 12 (endangered species), and 14 (habitat restoration).

Several key lessons were learned that can be applied under a renewed Initiative. The main lessons were:

- Projects are most successful if there are pre-consultations to develop good relationships and understanding with communities.
- Benefits must be derived for local communities, and certain traditional land rights and practices need to be allowed to continue.
- Community forests work well but need to be properly located to improve their chances of success.
- Capacity building and awareness-raising for local communities and local government officials is essential for improving area management, but needs should be understood prior to implementation.
- Political support from high levels in the governments of all participating countries is essential to the success of a transboundary conservation project.
- Local government authorities at all levels (state, region, municipal) should be involved to the extent possible.

- Transboundary projects require regular meetings of the project steering committee with membership from all governments, based on a commitment for transboundary activities that is clearly stated in a formal agreement.
- Projects should provide measurable indicators for achievement and have the means to conduct the monitoring.
- For monitoring and research projects, a technical committee to assess outcomes, and review scientific data and reports will ensure high quality.
- Developing baseline biodiversity information or conducting local applied forest research can benefit substantially from local people's knowledge of the project area.

3. Renewal of the ITTO-CBD Memorandum of Understanding for Tropical Forest Biodiversity

In February 2021, ITTO and CBD Secretariats signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which formally extended the partnership to 2025.

The overall goal of this MOU is to support Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity and ITTO member countries to maintain, restore and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services of tropical forests and forest landscapes, while maintaining the sustainable production of timber and other products and services. It is aimed at facilitating the implementation of activities linked to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in sustainable forest management; use and restoration of tropical forest resources within the framework of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2021-2022 and subsequent Work Programmes; the piloting of ITTO's new Programmatic Approach and its four programme lines and in particular the program line on conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services for the pilot period of 2020-2022 adopted in ITTC Decision 8(LV); the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013–2018, extended until December 2021 and any successor Strategic Action Plan; the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030; the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, the thematic programme on ecosystem restoration, and the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

II. THE ITTO-CBD COLLABORATIVE INITIATIVE OR TROPICAL FOREST BIODIVERSITY FOR 2024-2025

1. OBJECTIVE

Development objective

The overall objective of this Initiative is to enhance biodiversity conservation in tropical forests with the direct participation of local stakeholders, addressing the drivers of deforestation, forest degradation and biodiversity loss.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the ITTO-CBD Initiative are to provide support to developing countries that are both Parties to the CBD and members of ITTO, for the implementation of country-specific projects that contribute to the achievement of common goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and to the Targets 12 and 18 of Strategic Priority 3 of ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026 (refer to Annex 2).

The overall goal of the Collaborative Initiative, as stated in the new MOU, is to enhance biodiversity conservation in tropical forests with the direct participation of local stakeholders, addressing the two main drivers of biodiversity loss in tropical forests—deforestation and forest degradation. There are also four specific objectives:

- 1) Enhance the national and local capacity for biodiversity conservation in production forest landscapes.
- 2) Improve the conservation and management of protected areas, especially in buffer zones and transboundary areas.
- 3) Restore and rehabilitate degraded and deforested landscapes to increase biodiversity and improve forest production.
- 4) Improve the welfare of local communities and indigenous groups through biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources.

These specific objectives are to be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest management (SFM), with a particular emphasis on biodiversity protection and enhancing the value of natural tropical forests to avoid

unplanned land use change, while promoting forest landscape restoration as a nature-based solution contributing to achieving the forest-related targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the Targets 12 and 18 of Strategic Priority 3 of ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026.

2. CONFORMITY WITH ITTO AND CBD OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Conformity with ITTO policy framework

The ITTO-CBD Initiative directly supports the following ITTA 2006 Objectives:

- (c) Contributing to sustainable development and to poverty alleviation;
- (m) Encouraging members to develop national policies aimed at sustainable utilization and conservation of timber producing forests, and maintaining ecological balance;
- (q) Promoting better understanding of the contribution of non-timber forest products and environmental services to the sustainable management of tropical forests with the aim of enhancing the capacity of members to develop strategies to strengthen such contributions in the context of sustainable forest management, and cooperating with relevant institutions and processes to this end;
- (r) Encouraging members to recognize the role of forest-dependent indigenous and local communities in achieving sustainable forest management and develop strategies to enhance the capacity of these communities to sustainably manage tropical timber producing forests; and
- (s) Identifying and addressing relevant new and emerging issues.

It also addresses the following Targets contained in the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026, under the Strategic Priority 3 (Resilience, restoration and conservation):

- Target 12: Articulate and promote ITTO's role in reducing tropical deforestation and forest degradation and contributing to climate-change mitigation and adaptation and forest landscape restoration;
- Target 18: Promote use of the Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics (2020) and update as needed the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Production Forests (2009)

Conformity with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

During the COP 15 meeting in December 2022, Parties to the CBD agreed to a new set of goals and targets collectively known as the "Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework". The four global goals are set for 2050 while 27 targets are set for their achievements by 2030. The ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative will prioritize activities to contribute to the achievement of forest related goals and associated targets identified in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which are in correlation with some ITTO objectives and priorities, specifically:

- Target 2: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30% of degraded ecosystems are under restoration
- Target 3: Ensure that by 2030 at least 30% of land and ocean are protected through well-connected and equitable governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
- Target 10: Ensure that areas of agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably
- Target 15: Take legal, or policy measures to encourage business to reduce negative impacts on biodiversity and to promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production
- Target 16: Ensure that people are encouraged to make sustainable consumption choices
- Target 19: Increase international financial resources from developed country Parties to developing countries to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025 and to a least \$30 billion per year by 2030
- Target 20: Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation
- Target 21: Ensure the best available data, information and knowledge for decision-making
- Target 22: Ensure participatory decision-making and respect the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities
- Target 23: Ensure gender responsive approach

3. OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The main instrument of the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative 2024-2025 is financing projects and activities for supporting ITTO Producer Members in the implementation of actions proposed by stakeholders in the ITTO member countries, through the ITTO official contact points in consultation with national CBD focal points. Each project proposal should clearly show how it contributes to the achievement of relevant Global Goals for 2050 and Global Targets for 2030 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as to the biodiversity-related objectives of the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026.

For selecting activities/pre-projects/projects for financing, the following criteria will be considered:

- a) Conformity with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026;
- b) Capacity to deliver on targeted objectives and deliverables;
- c) Cost effectiveness and appropriate management controls on funding in place;
- d) Local-level and national socio-economic and environmental impacts, including for indigenous peoples and local communities;
- e) Linkages or relevance to other activities and projects and leveraged funding support;
- f) Applicability/extension of results nationally or regionally;
- g) Inclusion of indicators to monitor and evaluate progress towards achieving project objectives and a clear mechanism and process to use the results and lessons learned;
- h) Sustainability of outputs and outcomes after project completion;
- i) Mechanisms for effective stakeholder participation; and
- j) Strong demonstrable impact to the achievement of the specific objectives of the ITTO-CBD Initiative.

4. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The measures to guarantee the sustainability of the results of each project are to be described in their specific project documents. They will be regularly assessed during annual project monitoring and evaluations. Continued funding will be dependent on successful reporting and achievement of clear objectives and deliverables.

Each project will be listed in ITTO project portfolio, and in the CBD projects database, with a view to include successful projects as examples into good practice guidelines, such as the CBD/IUCN Good Practice Guide for Biodiversity and Livelihoods: Sustainable Forest Management. Thus, successful projects will serve as models for demonstration and replication.

5. INDICATIVE BUDGET

5.1 Consolidated Indicative Budget

A general indicative work plan covers two years for the years 2024 and 2025. The total indicative budget of this Initiative is US\$5 million, of which US\$4.2 million would be for country-level activities and US\$0.8 million for regional and international level activities.

ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative, ITTO funding (ITTO projects and activities to be concluded in 2024-2025)	US\$2,663,254.00
Balance of funding from external donors through collaborative fundraising efforts by ITTO and CBD	US\$2,336,746.00
TOTAL	US\$5,000,000.00

5.2 Potential Donors

The governments of Japan, the United States, Australia and The Republic of Korea have made contributions to the ongoing projects and activities within the framework of the ITTO-CBD Collaborative Initiative. These contributions amount to US\$2,663,254 and endeavours are currently in progress and are scheduled for completion in 2024-2025 or later. The ongoing projects and activities include the following:

1. PD 712/13 Rev.3 (F) Enhancing the Implementation of Landscape Management of Giam Siak Kecil-Bukit Batu Biosphere Reserve (GSK-BR) in Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Sumatra - Phase I (Indonesia) / **[US\$250,000]**
2. PD 808/16 Rev.5 (F) Conservation of African Barwood (*Pterocarpus Erinaceus* Poir) in the Gazetted Forests of La Palee and Boundiali in Northern Côte d'Ivoire with the Participation of Local Communities - Phase I (Côte d'Ivoire) / **[US\$320,000]**
3. PD 902/19 Rev.3 (F) Management of Upper Baram Forest Area for Conservation and Sustainable Development with Involvement of Local Communities, Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia (Malaysia) / **[US\$556,083]**
4. PD 903/19 Rev.2 (F) Management of Sungai Menyang Conservation Area for Orangutan Protection and Uplifting Community Livelihood, Sarawak, Malaysia (Malaysia) **[Partial funding \$121,903]**
5. PD 905/19 Rev.3 (F) Providing Support for the Sustainable Management of the Fosse-aux-Lions Gazetted Forest in the Savanna Region in Togo – Phase I (Togo) / **[US\$200,000]**
6. PD 916/21 Rev.1 (F) Pilot Sustainable Management Systems for Secondary Natural Forests in the Collective Afro-descendant Community Territory of the Bajo Calima Community Council, Municipality of Buenaventura, Colombia (Colombia) / **[US\$450,000]**
7. PD 932/23 (F) Assessment and Dissemination of Knowledge and Experience for Ex-Situ Conservation and Plantation of Caoba in Northern Coastal Area, Peru (Peru) / **[US\$85,000]**
8. PP-A/56-341B Support for Women's Groups with the Restoration of Forest Landscapes in the Prefectures of Blitta and Lacs, Togo – Phase III (Togo) / **[US\$72,268]**
9. PP-A/59-351 Community-Based Restoration of Cyclone-Affected Vulnerable Mangrove Forests through the Empowerment of Coastal Communities and Women in the Rewa Delta, Fiji (Fiji) / **[US\$350,000]**
10. PP-A/59-352 Community Empowerment in Forest Management and Forest Landscape Restoration in Upper Baram, Sarawak, Malaysia (Malaysia) / **[US\$258,000]**

Total amount: US\$2,663,254

The renewed Collaborative Initiative will strategically enhance its funding approach by aligning with the priorities of donor countries, including the European Union, the United States, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea and China, to support projects that fit within their international development mandates. Furthermore, ITTO and the CBD will explore opportunities to expand funding sources through synergies with existing initiatives of UNEP, UNDP, GEF, GCF and development banks. As part of its commitment to biodiversity, ITTO has already expressed its keen interest in exploring the possibility of becoming an implementing agency within GEF projects, thereby contributing to global biodiversity initiatives. Member countries and the host country of Japan have been informed of this move and the ITTO has requested the support from Japan and other member countries.

Annex 1 - ITTO-CBD MOU

Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the International Tropical Organization



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND
THE SECRETARIAT OF THE INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
(Extension for the period 2021-2025)**

The Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) (hereafter called the “Secretariats” collectively, or each referred to as “Secretariat”);

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 by the United Nations General Assembly in March 2019 aiming to support and scale up efforts to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide and raise awareness of the importance of successful ecosystem restoration as a proven measure to fight climate change, enhance global biological diversity, food security and water supply as well as securing the livelihoods, well-being and economic prosperity of a large proportion of the global population;

Acknowledging that the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the CBD, at its fifteenth meeting, plans to adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a plan towards achieving the 2050 Vision of 'Living in harmony with nature' in which Parties are urged to strengthen implementation of its goals and targets, including those relating to forest biodiversity;

Recalling paragraphs 1 and 28 of CBD decision 14/30, in which the COP urged Parties and other Governments, other organizations, conventions and stakeholders to consider possible new areas and approaches to advance the implementation of biodiversity commitments through enhanced cooperation as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to further strengthen collaboration with the ITTO under the Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity;

Recalling the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests (2009), the ITTO Voluntary Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of Natural Tropical Forests (2015), the ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics (2020), the ITTO Environmental and Social Management Guidelines (2020), CBD decision XIII/5 “Ecosystem restoration: short-term action plan” and CBD decision XII/5 “the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity”;

Recalling the critical importance of the inter-relationship between the condition of tropical forests and environmental threats such as climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and desertification;

Recalling International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) decisions 13(XXIX) and 7(XXX) in which the ITTC requested the Executive Director of the ITTO to explore options for a work plan with targeted joint activities with international organizations, including the CBD;



Further recalling ITTC Decision 8(LV) in which the ITTC requested the Executive Director of the ITTO to seek an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the SCBD for an additional period of five years, with a view to enhance mutually supportive implementation of the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) and the CBD, especially for activities which are funded under the Global Environment Facility (GEF) biodiversity and land degradation focal areas;

Welcoming past efforts of the Secretariats through the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Joint Initiative For Tropical Forest Biodiversity since 2011, as a joint framework for cooperation in supporting member governments in the implementation of sustainable tropical forest management and trade, and the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity in tropical forests;

THE SECRETARIATS HEREBY AGREE TO RENEW THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNED ON 2 MARCH 2010 AND EXTENDED ON 13 OCTOBER 2014 FOR AN ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, 2021-2025, AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1
Interpretation**

1. Implementation of any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to this MoU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Secretariats, shall necessitate the execution of appropriate legal instruments between the Secretariats. The terms of such legal instruments shall be subject to the provisions of this MoU.
2. This MoU represents the complete understanding between the Secretariats and supersedes all prior MoUs, communications and representations, whether oral or written, concerning the subject matter of this MoU.

**Article 2
Duration**

This MoU will come into effect on 1 February 2021 and will end on 31 December 2025, with possible further extension if mutually agreed, subject to availability of resources, unless terminated in accordance with Article 15.

**Article 3
Purpose**

1. The overall goal of this MoU is to support Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity and ITTO member countries to maintain, restore and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services of tropical forests and forest landscapes, while maintaining the sustainable production of timber and other products and services. It is aimed at facilitating the implementation of activities linked to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity in sustainable forest management; use and restoration of tropical forest resources within the framework of the ITTO Biennial Work Programme 2021-2022 and subsequent Work Programmes; the piloting of ITTO's new Programmatic Approach and its four programme lines and in particular the program line on conservation of biodiversity and



ecosystem services for the pilot period of 2020-2022 adopted in ITTC Decision 8(LV) and any appropriate ITTC-approved framework between 2022-2025; the ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2013–2018, extended until December 2021 and any successor Strategic Action Plan; the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030; the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, the thematic programme on ecosystem restoration, and the implementation of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

2. Activities under this MoU will contribute to achieve the following main objectives:
 - a. Assist countries to fully recognize and enhance the values of forest landscapes, including their biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as in the collection and/or use of existing ecological and biological data that contribute to sustainable management, use and restoration of tropical forests;
 - b. Promote innovative approaches and practices (including payment for ecosystem services), and technologies and strengthening of technical skills aimed at maintaining and/or enhancing tropical biodiversity and ecosystem services in forest landscapes;
 - c. Assist in building countries' capacity to implement the ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Production Forests and other relevant ITTO and internationally acknowledged guidelines and CBD decisions;
 - d. Enhance further collaboration with international organizations and partners to strengthen capacity to implement global biodiversity goals, including conservation and sustainable use of tropical tree species listed in the CITES annexes; and
 - e. Implement other activities as agreed by both Secretariats.

Article 4 Areas of Cooperation

1. Areas of Cooperation are agreed jointly through the cooperation mechanism in the MoU. Policies and priorities under this MoU may also be jointly reviewed by the request of one Secretariat with agreement of the other Secretariat pursuant to Article 5 below to allow the Secretariats to respond to newly emerging issues in the realm of biological diversity, environment and sustainable development.
2. The Secretariats have agreed to the following preliminary areas of cooperation for this MoU, in accordance with their respective mandate and programme of work.
 - a. Identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity between the Secretariats, with involvement of other relevant organizations and partners;
 - b. Carry out the targeted joint activities taking into account, among others, the revision of the ITTO/CBD Joint Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity in 2021 and its implementation in ITTO producer member countries and Parties signatory to the CBD;
 - c. Facilitate access to bilateral and multi-lateral funding sources, including through Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund, for achieving the mutual objectives of ITTO and CBD to sustain forest biodiversity as enshrined in this MoU;
 - d. Assist countries to achieve sustainable forest management, reduce deforestation, rehabilitate degraded forest lands through ecosystem restoration, and enhance and expand forest protected areas; and



- e. Facilitate information exchange and other forms of cooperation between the Secretariats such as:
 - i. Organizing joint activities, such as the development of guidelines, analytical work, training and capacity building as well as formulating selected field projects under different modalities;
 - ii. Promoting cooperation with other sectors and organizations including the Collaborative Partnership on Forests;
 - iii. Organizing joint events at international conferences and meetings, including those of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the World Forestry Congress;
 - iv. Supporting regional collaboration and South-South cooperation; and
 - v. Examining opportunities for harmonized reporting on sustainable use, restoration and conservation of tropical forests in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
3. The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Secretariats on other issues of common interest.

Article 5 Organization of the Cooperation

1. Reports will be periodically presented to the appropriate meetings of the ITTC and the CBD.
2. The Secretariats will review the effectiveness of this arrangement on an annual basis and mutually agree on necessary steps to keep it dynamic and effective.

Article 6 Status of the Secretariats and their Personnel

1. The Secretariats acknowledge and agree that ITTO is an entity separate and distinct from the United Nations, including SCBD. The employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of ITTO, including the personnel engaged by ITTO for carrying out any of the project activities pursuant to this MoU, shall not be considered in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of the United Nations, including SCBD, nor shall any employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of SCBD be considered, in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever, as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of ITTO.
2. Neither Secretariat shall be entitled to act or make legally binding declarations on behalf of the other Secretariat. Nothing in this MoU shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Secretariats.



Article 7 Fundraising

1. To the extent permitted by the Secretariats' respective regulations, rules, policies and procedures, and subject to paragraph 2 below, the Secretariats may engage in fundraising to support the activities, projects and programmes to be developed or carried out pursuant to this MoU.
2. Neither Secretariat shall engage in fundraising with third parties in the name of or on behalf of the other, without the prior express written approval of the other Secretariat in each instance.
3. The Secretariats should regularly consult with each other to determine the availability of resources required for implementing the activities under this MoU and the most equitable way of meeting such expenditure, if any. If resources are not available, the Secretariats will consult on the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources, including opportunities for joint fundraising and for CBD's support for ITTO's engagement as an executing agency of GEF funded projects.

Article 8 Intellectual Property Rights

1. Nothing in the MoU shall be construed as granting or implying rights to, or interest in, intellectual property of the Secretariats, except as otherwise provided in paragraph 2 below.
2. In the event that the Secretariats foresee that intellectual property that can be protected shall be created in relation to a particular activity, project or programme to be carried out under this MoU, the Secretariats shall negotiate and agree on terms of its ownership and use in the relevant legal instrument concluded as per Article 1.

Article 9 Use of Name and Emblem

1. Neither Secretariat shall use the name, emblem or trademarks of the other Secretariat, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or for public dissemination without the prior express written approval of the other Secretariat in each instance. In no event shall authorization of the name or emblem of each Secretariat be granted for commercial purposes or for use in any manner that suggests an endorsement of each other's products, business practices or services.
2. ITTO Secretariat acknowledges that it is familiar with the independent, international and impartial status of the United Nations and SCBD, and recognizes that their names and emblems may not be associated with any political or sectarian cause or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with the status of the United Nations and SCBD.
3. The Secretariats agree to recognize and acknowledge this partnership, as appropriate. To this end, the Secretariats shall consult with each other concerning the manner and form of such recognition and acknowledgement.



Article 10
United Nations Privileges and Immunities

Nothing in or relating to this MoU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

Article 11
Confidentiality

1. The handling of information shall be subject to each Secretariat's corporate confidentiality policies.
2. Before disclosing internal documents, or documents that by virtue of their content or the circumstances of their creation or communication must be deemed confidential, of the other Secretariat to third parties, each Secretariat shall obtain the express written consent of the other Secretariat. However, a Secretariat's disclosure of the other Secretariat's internal and/or confidential documents to an entity the disclosing Secretariat controls or with which it is under common control, or to an entity with which it has a confidentiality agreement, shall not be considered a disclosure to a third party, and shall not require prior authorization.
3. For SCBD, a principal or subsidiary organ of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations shall be deemed to be a legal entity under common control.

Article 12
Responsibility

Each Secretariat will be responsible for dealing with any claims or demands arising out of its actions or omissions, and those of its respective personnel, in relation to this MoU.

Article 13
Dispute Settlement

1. The Secretariats shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this MoU. Where the Secretariats wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then prevailing, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Secretariats.
2. Any dispute, controversy or claim between the Secretariats arising out of this MoU which is not settled amicably in accordance with the foregoing sub-article may be referred by either Secretariat to arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules in force. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The Secretariats shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.



**Article 14
Notification and Amendments**

1. Either Secretariat shall promptly notify the other in writing of any anticipated or actual material changes that will affect the execution of this MoU.
2. The Secretariats may amend this MoU by mutual written agreement, which shall be appended to this MoU and become an integral part of it.

**Article 15
Termination**

1. Either Secretariat may terminate this MoU by giving 6 months prior written notice to the other Secretariat.
2. Upon termination of this MoU, the rights and obligations of the Secretariats defined under any other legal instrument executed pursuant to this MoU shall cease to be effective, except as otherwise provided in this MoU.
3. Any termination of the MoU shall be without prejudice to (a) the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity and (b) any other rights and obligations of the Secretariats accrued prior to the date of termination under this MoU or legal instrument executed pursuant to this MoU.
4. The obligations under Articles 8-13 do not lapse upon expiry, termination of or withdrawal from this MoU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Secretariats affix their signatures below.

**For the Secretariat of the Convention on
Biological Diversity**

**For the Secretariat of the International Tropical
Timber Organization**

.....
Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Executive Secretary

.....
Gerhard Dieterle
Executive Director

Date: 25 January 2021

Date: 25 January 2021

Ref. No: M.21-002

Secretariats' initials:

Annex 2 – Strategic Priority of ITTO Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026

Strategic Priority	Targets
<p>SP1: Governance investment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategy/roadmap for meeting GEF and GCF requirements for accreditation as a partner agency and in the interim pursue effective participation in GEF and GCF multi-stakeholder engagement arrangements • Leverage financing through enhanced international partnerships and synergies • Develop and promote tools to monitor/increase transparency/traceability in supply chains • Promote ITTO’s leadership as a platform for dialogue and cooperation on legal and sustainable supply (LSSC) chains • Promote actions to combat illegal trade in tropical timber species and reinforce collaboration with CITES to this end • Explore opportunities/constraints to investment in tropical timber processing industries and technologies
<p>SP2: Economies and tropical timber trade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the effects of domestic wood production and trade in producer countries on sustainable forest management (SFM) and promote sustainable domestic wood production and supply chains • Establish an ITTO working group to include the Trade Advisory Group and Civil Society Advisory Group to look at market/trade issues, resiliency in the tropical timber business, and ways to build global demand for sustainably produced/supplied tropical timber • Develop and promote indigenous and local community forest management and business models for small and medium enterprises, including legal and sustainable value chains • Explore opportunities for sustainable value creation in producer countries • Assess the role of tropical plantations and agroforestry systems in local and national economies and opportunities to rehabilitate degraded land for these uses
<p>SP3: Deforestation Restoration Biodiversity Ecosystem services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articulate/promote ITTO’s role in reducing tropical deforestation and forest degradation and contributing to climate change mitigation/adaptation and forest landscape restoration • Promote positive interactions between forest, agriculture and other sectors to reduce illegal deforestation, including through land use policies and landscape planning • Analyze and promote approaches to managing forest landscape in an integrated manner in the context of a changing climate • Seek to establish an MOU with UNFCCC to promote collaboration/synergies, including on forest restoration and integration of SFM in climate mitigation/ adaptation strategies • Refine the MOU with CBD as needed to reflect the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework • Extend/renew the MOU with UNCCD through 2026 • Promote use of ITTO Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration in the Tropics (2020) and update as needed ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Production Forests (2009)
<p>SP4: Statistics Information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make strategic use of ITTO’s market/trade databases to inform and support LSSC discussions in international fora and within the Collaborative Partnership on Forests • Prepare an updated SFM Tropics report based on ITTO’s Criteria & Indicators for SFM • Upgrade ITTO databases on projects and activities, taking into account the database being developed as part of piloting a streamlined project cycle

Annex 3 – Goals and Targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Global goals for 2050

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has four long-term goals for 2050 related to the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

GOAL A

The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050;

Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and, by 2050, the extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels;

The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species, is maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

GOAL B

Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

GOAL C

The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

GOAL D

Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing country Parties, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

Global targets for 2030

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement towards the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols, and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national circumstances, priorities and socioeconomic conditions.

1. *Reducing threats to biodiversity*

TARGET 1

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 2

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

TARGET 3

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

TARGET 4

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

TARGET 5

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 6

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

TARGET 7

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

TARGET 8

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

TARGET 9

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

TARGET 10

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the

resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

TARGET 11

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as the regulation of air, water and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

TARGET 12

Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

TARGET 13

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030, facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

TARGET 14

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

TARGET 15

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

- (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains, and portfolios;
- (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;

in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

TARGET 16

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices, including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

TARGET 17

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries, biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

TARGET 18

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least

\$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

TARGET 19

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, mobilizing at least \$200 billion per year by 2030, including by:

(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least \$20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least \$30 billion per year by 2030;

(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;

(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;

(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, and benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;

(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;

(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions¹ and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;

(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

TARGET 20

Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the Framework.

TARGET 21

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent,² in accordance with national legislation.

TARGET 22

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

1 Mother Earth Centric Actions: Ecocentric and rights-based approach enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensuring the non-commodification of environmental functions of Mother Earth.

2 Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement.”

TARGET 23

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Framework through a gender-responsive approach, where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

Source: CBD/COP/DEC/15/4 of 19 December 2022

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