

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
between the
International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO)
and
BirdLife International

1. Preamble

The International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and BirdLife International (BirdLife International), (hereinafter called the Organizations);

Recalling that Agenda 21 under UNCED 1992 recognises the vital role civil society organisations play in participatory democracy and the diverse expertise in fields important to sustainable development and also urges the United Nations system and Governments to strengthen mechanisms to involve non-government organizations in decision making.

Further recalling the Johannesburg Declaration and Plan of Implementation as adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2002, the United Nations Forum on Forests established in October 2000 and the setting up of the associated Collaborative Partnership on Forests, of which ITTO is a member, as well as the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Non-Legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, and the relevant sections of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

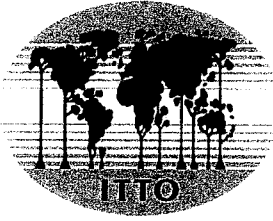
Further recalling the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Nagoya Protocol and Biodiversity Targets adopted in 2010, recognising the exceptional importance of tropical forests for global biodiversity conservation and the provision of ecosystem goods and services;

Recognizing that the sustainable management of forests can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

Emphasising the need for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of all types of forests, and mainly fragile forest ecosystems;

Considering that the International Tropical Timber Organization is an intergovernmental organisation established under the International Tropical Timber Agreement 1983 and subsequently administered under ITTA 1994 and ITTA, 2006 to promote the expansion and diversification of international trade in tropical timber from sustainably managed and legally harvested forests and to promote the sustainable management of tropical timber producing forests

Further considering that the BirdLife International Partnership is an international non-profit global partnership of non-government conservation organizations established in 1922 and



reorganised in 1994 with a combined membership of nearly 120 organisations and over 2 million individuals, that promotes the conservation of birds and their use as indicators of the wider biodiversity with the most updated and extensive information available globally.

Recognizing the value of such a global arrangement in order to facilitate the engagement of BirdLife partners at national level.

Aware that deforestation and forest degradation reduce the environmental services derived from tropical forests and that preventing deforestation and restoring forests provide benefits for biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation and livelihoods.

Recognizing that ITTO develops internationally agreed policy documents and guidelines to promote sustainable forest management and forest conservation and assists its member countries to adapt and apply such policies through projects and other actions.

Recognising that BirdLife International works with BirdLife Partners at the national level and strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources including, but not limited to, forest policy development and implementation of forest restoration programmes.

Acknowledging the advantages of working co-operatively and collaboratively based on agreed principles and processes in accordance with the respective mandates, visions and strategies of the Organizations;

Noting that a joint framework of co-operation between the Organisations would generate greater support for efforts towards enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

Now therefore, the Organizations have reached the following understanding:

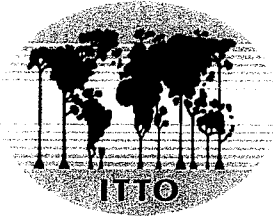
2. **Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to enhance co-operation between ITTO and BirdLife International through activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of tropical forest biodiversity in accordance with the work programmes of both ITTO and BirdLife International.

3. **Objective**

The key objectives of the MoU over the next four years are to:

- a) identify, develop and implement targeted joint activities on forests and biodiversity conservation under the ITTO Action Plan 2008-2011 and subsequent action plans, ITTO Biennial Work Programme (2012-2013) and subsequent work programmes, the ITTO thematic programmes, and the BirdLife International programme for 2009-2012 and subsequent programmes approved by the BirdLife International Partnership at its four-yearly Partnership meetings. Of particular relevance are activities that will include but are



not limited to the ITTO Thematic Programme on Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services in Tropical Forests (REDDES), the ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative, and the BirdLife International Forest of Hope Programme.

b) facilitate information exchange and dissemination between the Organizations.

4. Focus of the work on tropical forests and biodiversity

Over the long term, areas of focus related to biodiversity conservation and tropical forests may include the following:

- Identify, develop and support implementation of joint site-based projects (e.g. forest restoration, biodiversity safeguards in REDD+, improving local livelihoods)
- Develop and support implementation of projects and best practices addressing global and regional drivers of deforestation
- Facilitate involvement of other relevant organizations and agencies in programme and project implementation
- Identify and mobilise relevant expertise for joint activities
- Develop and test monitoring approaches and indicators for deforestation, forest degradation and forest restoration
- Organize awareness raising and educational activities to mobilise public support for forest conservation, restoration and sustainable management
- Organize other joint activities under appropriate modalities

Collaborative activities executed under this MoU will be effected through letters of agreement relating to specific activities agreed upon by both Organisations in writing. Such letters of agreement will be developed following meetings between the Organizations and will form an integral part of this MoU.

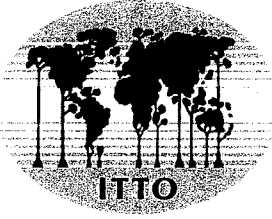
Proposed activities for 2012-2013 are listed in Annex 1. The annexed list of activities would be jointly reviewed and updated as necessary.

5. Resource Mobilisation

The Organizations shall regularly consult with each other to determine the availability of resources required for the implementation of the activities under this MoU and the most equitable way of meeting such expenditures. The Organizations will inform each other of their respective opportunities for funding of possible joint activities. If resources are not available, the Organizations will consult on the most appropriate ways to obtain the necessary resources, including opportunities for joint fundraising. The Organizations will participate in the preparation of proposals and project documents, and any related fundraising efforts, appropriate for the implementation of this MoU.

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6. Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation

A report on the first year of implementation of the MOU will be presented to the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) at its forty-eighth session (in November 2012) and at the meeting of the BirdLife International's Global Council in 2012. Subsequent reports will be presented at the annual meetings of the respective governing bodies of the Organisations.

The Organizations will meet to discuss progress and implementation of planned activities.

The Organizations will review the effectiveness of this arrangement on an annual basis and decide on necessary steps to keep it dynamic and effective.

7. Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute between ITTO and BirdLife International arising out of the interpretation or execution of this MoU shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation. If the Organisations are unable to reach agreement, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL).

8. Coming Into Effect, Amendment and Termination

This MoU will come into effect upon signature by the Executive Director of ITTO and the Chief Executive of BirdLife International.

Any amendment to this MoU will be effected only on the basis of written consent of both Organisations.

This MoU may be revised and renewed, four years after its coming into effect.

This MoU may be terminated by either Organisation by giving three months written notice.

The MoU will end on the 31 December 2015, with possible extension if mutually agreed.

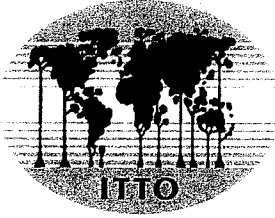
Signed:

Emmanuel Ze Meka
Executive Director, ITTO

Date: 24 January 2012

Dr Marco Lambertini
Chief Executive, BirdLife International

Date: 24 January 2012



Annex 1

Activities 2012-2013

Upon financial resources availability, the following joint activities may be prioritised to be carried out in the biennium 2012-2013:

1. The development and implementation of site based and/or demonstration projects in preventing deforestation and promoting forest restoration as either part of both ITTO's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Environmental Services (REDD) thematic programme and BirdLife International's Forest of Hope Programme. This may include implementing and revising (as needed and appropriate) the ITTO guidelines such as (but not limited to) the Guidelines for the Restoration, Management and Rehabilitation of Degraded and Secondary Forests (ITTO Policy Development Series No. 13) and ITTO/IUCN Guidelines for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Tropical Timber Production Forests (ITTO Policy Development Series No. 17).
2. The development and implementation of joint activities including but not limited to awareness raising activities on the conservation of forest biodiversity.
3. Jointly fundraise and develop a project for enhancing appropriate and robust biodiversity indicators for deforestation, forest degradation, and forest restoration.
4. Jointly fundraise and undertake an International Workshop on Forest Restoration together with relevant partners in ITTO member countries, and other international conservation organizations such as but not limited to the Secretariat of the Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD), FAO, IUCN / GPFLR, and WWF.