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**SUBREGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP  
ON FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE**

Singapore City, 2-5 September 2009

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

*Annotations to the provisional agenda*

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Subregional Capacity-building Workshop on Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change for South and South-East Asia will be held in Singapore City, from 2 to 5 September 2009. It has been organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) Secretariat, and the National Parks Board of Singapore, with generous financial support from the Government of Germany and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. The organizers gratefully acknowledge that several of the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) will contribute to the workshop by providing information on their work in the context of forest biodiversity and climate change, as indicated in the proposed organization of work contained in annex I below.

2. The objectives of the workshop are:

(a) To support the efforts of Parties to identify complementarities and achieve synergies between the implementation of the programme of work on forest biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNFF Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests, and forest-related climate change mitigation and adaptation activities, including those presently discussed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);

(b) To strengthen the capacity of national focal points of the UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC or country designated experts on the potential contribution of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity to climate mitigation and adaptation measures<sup>1</sup>, through relevant presentations on the subject

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1/ It is intended to use terms and definitions in this document consistently with existing UNFCCC decisions and documents. Capacity building is offered without any attempt to pre-empt ongoing or forthcoming UNFCCC negotiations.

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and facilitation of an informal exchange of experiences on pertinent issues, including REDD-plus<sup>2</sup> and the links between mitigation and adaptation efforts;

(c) To strengthen coordination and collaboration among the national focal points of the UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC, at regional and national level, through an informal exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

3. Registration of participants will commence at 9:00 a.m.<sup>3</sup> on Wednesday, 2 September 2009, at the premises of the Botany Centre of the Singapore Botanic Gardens. The meeting will be held in the Function Hall at the same location.

## II. BACKGROUND

4. Resolution 8/1 of the United Nations Forum on Forests, adopted at the Forum's eighth session, in April 2009, decided to strengthen the implementation of sustainable forest management (SFM) in addressing the challenges of "Forests in a changing environment" including climate change, loss of forest cover, forest degradation, desertification and biodiversity loss.<sup>4</sup> Strengthened coordination, in particular among national focal points for the UNFF, CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC, to facilitate implementation of SFM at national and other applicable levels was also called for by the Forum.<sup>5</sup> Greater emphasis was also placed on the use of national forest programmes or other strategies for SFM to integrate measures to address climate change, conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity, desertification, deforestation, degradation of forest ecosystems and water resources management, and to seek coherence with national development and poverty eradication strategies as well as with strategies and action plans under the UNCCD, CBD and UNFCCC.<sup>6</sup>

5. At its ninth meeting, in May 2008, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity called for greater efforts to increase cross-sectoral cooperation and initiatives at all levels. Specific attention was drawn to support countries in their efforts to carry out a coordinated implementation of both the programme of work of forest biodiversity under the CBD, and the decisions set by the UNFF, including the Non-Legally Binding Instrument on All Types of Forests (forest instrument), for the achievement of the 2010 target and the four Global Objectives on Forests.<sup>7</sup>

6. In decision IX/5, the Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to carry out thematic and/or regional workshops to support Parties' efforts in implementing the programme of work on forest biodiversity, based on the findings of the in-depth review of the programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/3). Such workshops should be carried out in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the UNFF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and other members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

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<sup>2/</sup> In this document, actions under paragraph 1 (b) (iii) of the Bali Action Plan of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Issues related to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries; and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) are referred to collectively as "REDD-plus", in line with UN document FCCC/AWGLCA/2009/INF.1.

<sup>3/</sup> Since the meeting is held during the fasting month of Ramadan, the schedule of the meeting intends to facilitate religious observances for those who practice them. The meeting will start at 10 a.m. on 3 and 4 September, and close shortly before sunset. Dinner will be served on site after sunset.

<sup>4/</sup> UNFF resolution 8/1 para 1(a)

<sup>5/</sup> UNFF resolution 8/1 para 1(c)

<sup>6/</sup> UNFF resolution 8/1 para 1 (b) and 2 (a)

<sup>7/</sup> Decision IX/5 para 1 (i).

7. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary to support Parties' efforts to address reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, in collaboration with the CPF members, in particular with the World Bank and the Secretariat of the UNFCCC.

8. The Conference of the Parties further requested the Executive Secretary in decision IX/5 to collect, compile and disseminate information on the relation between forest ecosystem resistance and resilience, forest biodiversity, and climate change. The Secretariat has prepared a draft paper on this issue, which will be made available to meeting participants as a background document.

9. Further, in decision IX/16, the Conference of the Parties established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG), including representatives of indigenous and local communities, on the linkages between forest biodiversity and climate change. The Group has the mandate to provide biodiversity-related information to the UNFCCC, including scientific and technical advice on biodiversity, in so far as it relates to climate change and decision 1/CP.13 of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC as well as its Nairobi work programme. Specifically, the Terms of Reference of the AHTEG include:

(a) Analysing the social, cultural and economic benefits of using ecosystem services for climate change adaptation and of maintaining ecosystem services by minimizing adverse impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

(b) Identifying measures that enable ecosystem restoration from the adverse impacts of climate change which can be effectively considered in impact, vulnerability and climate change adaptation strategies;

(c) Identifying opportunities to deliver multiple benefits for carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in a range of ecosystems including peatlands;

(d) Identifying opportunities for, and possible negative impacts on, biodiversity and its conservation and sustainable use, as well as livelihoods of indigenous and local communities, that may arise from reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;

(e) Identifying options to ensure that possible actions for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity but rather support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

(f) Identifying ways that components of biodiversity can reduce risk and damage associated with climate change impacts;

(g) Identifying means to incentivise the implementation of adaptation actions that promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

10. The AHTEG has held two meetings: one on biodiversity and climate change mitigation (18-22 November 2008, London), and one on biodiversity and adaptation to climate change (18-22 April in Helsinki). A meeting to review and consolidate the findings of both meetings was held from 20-24 July in Cape Town, South Africa. The draft report of the AHTEG is available on the CBD website, and will be made available to meeting participants as a background document.

11. The CPF, which consists of 14 international organizations working on forest-related issues, among them the UNFF and CBD Secretariats, prepared a Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change in December 2008, which will be made available to meeting participants. The Strategic Framework has the following six key messages:

(a) Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) provides an effective framework for forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation;

(b) Forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures should proceed concurrently;

- (c) Inter-sectoral collaboration, economic incentives, and the provision of alternative livelihoods are essential for reducing deforestation and forest degradation;
- (d) Capacity-building and governance reforms are urgently required;
- (e) Accurate forest monitoring and assessment helps informed decision-making but requires greater coordination at all levels;
- (f) CPF members are committed to a collaborative and comprehensive approach to forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation.

12. The CPF also launched the Global Forest Expert Panels joint initiative, led by the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), which published a comprehensive scientific assessment of climate change impacts on forests and people and options for adaptation. The report will be made available to meeting participants.

13. In CBD notification 2009-06-01, which was sent to CBD National Focal Points and the UNFF National Focal Points, the Executive Secretary and the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat jointly invited the following countries to submit up to three country-designated experts: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. An invitation was also sent to the Republic of Korea, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). Observers from Germany and Japan were invited, as the present and the incoming CBD COP Bureau Presidencies. An invitation was also sent to the Chair of the UNFF9 Bureau. Resource persons from the CPF member organizations and The Forest Dialogue were also invited. Two representatives of indigenous organizations (Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia / Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia, and Tebtebba - Indigenous Peoples' International Centre on Policy Research and Education) from South-East Asia were invited following a self-selection process.

## **ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS**

### ***2.1. Election of officers***

14. After a self-introduction of participants, the Group will be invited to elect a Chair based on proposals from the floor.

### ***2.2. Adoption of the agenda***

15. The provisional agenda will be before the Group for consideration and adoption.

### ***2.3. Organization of work***

16. Under this item, the Group will consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex I below. The language of the meeting will be English.

## **ITEM 3. STATUS OF NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS RELATED TO FOREST BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

17. Under this agenda item, country-designated experts will be asked to present, *in approximately 10 minutes*, their national status of implementation of relevant international commitments related to forest biodiversity and climate change, for example:

- (a) Lessons learned in implementing relevant CBD and UNFF commitments in support of forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures;

(b) Opportunities and Challenges of REDD pilot and demonstration activities and links with national adaptation efforts;

(c) Perspective for further interaction at national and regional level for synergies between UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC.

18. Participants are expected to take note of the information provided under this agenda item as the basis for discussions on opportunities and challenges for synergies in implementation (see Item 4 and 5.).

**ITEM 4. TECHNICAL SESSION: REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM  
DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD-  
PLUS)**

19. Under this agenda item, several resource persons will introduce current aspects of the global debate on REDD-plus, including pilot and demonstration activities, and participants will be invited to discuss related aspects in plenary, and in working groups.

20. Resource persons from Intercooperation, Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia, and Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre on Policy Research and Education), will provide an overview of the present challenges and opportunities related to REDD-plus, the current status of negotiations in the framework of the UNFCCC, and the perspective of indigenous and local communities.

21. A representative of a member organization of the CPF will introduce the CPF Strategic Framework on Forests and Climate Change.

22. The representative of the UNFF Secretariat will provide an update on the results of the eighth session of the Forum pertaining to the overall theme of “Forests in a changing environment”.

23. The following entities will be invited to provide an update on their programme activities in the region:

- (a) The UN REDD Programme;
- (b) The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF);
- (c) The ITTO REDD-ES Programme;
- (d) The Forest Dialogue (TFD).

24. Participants are expected to take note of the information provided. The presentations will be followed by a plenary discussion on regional opportunities and challenges for forest-based mitigation measures in the context of ‘REDD-plus’, in particular regarding the key opportunities and challenges for implementation of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity; as well as the opportunities for regional cooperation.

25. The plenary discussions will be followed by a working group session with the aim to facilitate exchange of information and experience between countries, for a better understanding of potential challenges and opportunities in the context of forest biodiversity, SFM and climate change. The following three working groups are proposed:

- (a) Policy coherence at national level: opportunities and challenges.
- (b) SFM contributions to REDD plus at national level: opportunities and challenges.
- (c) Indigenous and local community aspects of REDD plus: opportunities and challenges.

26. The working groups will report on their deliberations back to plenary.

**ITEM 5. TECHNICAL SESSION ON MULTIPLE BENEFITS: LINKS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION**

27. The purpose of this session is to explore the links between mitigation and adaptation efforts and highlight various multiple benefits of a coherent approach. Several resource persons will introduce current aspects of the global debate on forests and climate change adaptation, and participants will be invited to discuss related aspects in plenary and in working groups.

28. A resource person from the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) will provide an overview of the opportunities and challenges of forest-based adaptation, including examples of lessons learned from various countries in the region, and from other regions.

29. A representative of the IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panels (GEFP) initiative will present the results of the GEFP assessment report on “Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change” and the key results related to tropical forests.

30. A resource person from IUCN will introduce lessons learned for adaptation, restoration, and livelihoods, and present an overview of the potential for forest landscape restoration.

31. A representative of the CBD Secretariat will introduce the ‘REDD plus’-related draft recommendations of the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG), pertaining both to climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as the national protected area systems gap analyses.

32. The presentations will be followed by a plenary discussion on regional opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation activities, in particular regarding the key opportunities and challenges for implementation of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity; as well as the opportunities for regional cooperation and synergies between mitigation and adaptation policies and measures.

33. The plenary discussion will be followed by a working group session to facilitate an exchange of information and experience between countries, and to heighten a better understanding among countries in the sub-region of the potential challenges and opportunities in the context of forest biodiversity and climate change. The following three working groups are proposed:

- (a) Forests for adaptation: opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation;
- (b) Adaptation for forests: opportunities and challenges for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity;
- (c) Linkages between adaptation and mitigation: coherence in policies and measures.

34. The working groups will report back to plenary on their deliberations.

**ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS**

35. Under this item, participants may wish to raise other matters related to the subject-matter of the meeting, and to agree on any follow-up actions.

**ITEM 7. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

36. The Chair will provide an overview of her/his conclusions, and her/his observations whether meeting objectives have been achieved.

37. Participants will be encouraged to provide feedback and evaluate the meeting.

38. Participants will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting, on the basis of the draft report of the meeting to be prepared and presented by the Chair.

39. The meeting is expected to end on Friday, 4 September at 6:30 p.m. It will be followed by an optional field trip to the Singapore Botanical Gardens on 5 September which starts at 8 a.m. and ends at 12 noon.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

<b>Wednesday, 2 September 2009</b>	
9.00-9.30 a.m.	Registration and submissions of presentations and country reports
9.30-10.30 a.m.	Opening of the meeting by a representative of NParks Opening remarks by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the CBD Opening remarks by a representative of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) Opening remarks by a representative of the Director of the United Nations Forum on Forests
10.30 - 11 a.m.	Coffee Break and photo-taking session
11 a.m.- 12 p.m.	Self-introduction of participants: affiliation, expertise, expectations Election of officers and adoption of the agenda Organization of work: Dr. Jürgen Blaser (Facilitator)
<b>Status of national implementation of international commitments related to forest biodiversity and climate change</b>	
12 p.m.-1 p.m.	Presentations by country delegations based on presentation template (max. 10 min each):  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Lessons learned in implementing relevant CBD and UNFF commitments in support of forest-based climate change mitigation and adaptation measures;</li> <li>(b) Opportunities and Challenges of REDD pilot and demonstration activities and links with national adaptation efforts;</li> <li>(c) Perspective for further interaction at national and regional level for synergies between UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC.</li> </ul>
1-2 p.m.	Lunch
2-4.30 p.m.	Continued: Presentations by country delegations
4.30-4.45 p.m.	Coffee Break
<b>Technical Session: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)</b>	
4.45-6 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'REDD plus' update: main challenges and opportunities; the current status of negotiations in the framework of the UNFCCC; perspective of indigenous and local communities (3 resource persons, to be decided)</li> <li>• CPF Strategic Framework</li> <li>• Introduction to results of the UNFF-8 in relation to forest biodiversity and climate change</li> </ul>
6.30-8.30 p.m.	Reception and dinner offered by host country



**Thursday, 3 September 2009**

10 - 10.15 a.m. Summary of country presentations and reflections on previous day (Moderator: UNFF and CBD Secretariats)

10.15 -11 a.m.	<p>Introduction to international collaborative efforts, and national REDD pilot and demonstration actions (15 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The UN REDD Programme</li> <li>• Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)</li> <li>• ITTO REDD-ES Programme</li> </ul> <p>Introduction to results of The Forest Dialogue on REDD Financing Mechanisms (Jürgen Blaser, Intercooperation)</p>
11 a.m.-1 p.m. Plenary discussion (with coffee break)	<p>Regional opportunities and challenges for forest-based mitigation measures in the context of 'REDD plus', in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key opportunities and challenges for implementation of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity</li> <li>• Opportunities for regional cooperation</li> <li>• Opportunities for synergies with adaptation efforts</li> </ul> <p>(Moderator: Jürgen Blaser, Intercooperation)</p>
1-2 p.m.	Lunch break
2-5 p.m. (with coffee break)	<p><b>Working groups</b></p> <p>I. Policy coherence at national level: opportunities and challenges</p> <p>II. SFM contributions to REDD plus at national level: opportunities and challenges</p> <p>III. Indigenous and local community aspects of REDD plus: opportunities and challenges</p>
5-6.30 p.m.	Report back to plenary

**Friday, 4 September 2009**

**Technical Session: Multiple benefits: Links between Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

10-11.30 a.m.	<p><b>Forest-based adaptation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview from CIFOR on forest-based adaptation measures</li> <li>• Report from IUFRO-led Global Forest Expert Panel (GEFP) on Adaptation of Forests and People to Climate Change</li> <li>• IUCN - Lessons learned for adaptation, restoration, and livelihoods</li> <li>• Forest-related results of the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on the links between biodiversity and adaptation</li> </ul>
11.30 - 11.45 a.m.	Coffee break

<p>11.45 a.m.– 1 p.m. Plenary discussion</p>	<p>Regional Opportunities and Challenges for forest-based adaptation measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key opportunities and challenges for implementation of conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity</li> <li>• Opportunities for regional cooperation</li> <li>• Synergies between mitigation and adaptation policies and measures</li> </ul> <p>(Moderator: Jürgen Blaser, Intercooperation)</p>
<p>1-2 p.m.</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>2-4 p.m. (with coffee break)</p>	<p><b>Working Groups</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. <i>Forests for Adaptation</i>: Opportunities and challenges for forest-based adaptation</li> <li>II. <i>Adaptation for Forests</i>: Opportunities and challenges for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity</li> <li>III. <i>Linkages between adaptation and mitigation</i>: coherence in policies and measures</li> </ol>
<p>4-6.30 p.m.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report back to plenary and discussion of Working Group results</li> <li>• Chairs summary</li> <li>• Workshop evaluation, adoption of the report, and closing of the meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Saturday, 5 September 2009 (optional)</b></p>	
<p>8 a.m. - 12 p.m.</p>	<p>Field trip</p>

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