



# **REDD-plus BRIEFING PAPER**

**Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity  
18 to 29 October 2010, Nagoya**

FIELD has prepared this briefing paper to assist UNFCCC negotiators from developing countries who are working on REDD-plus. It is available in English, French and Spanish through <http://www.field.org.uk>.

FIELD provides this information on a neutral, non partisan basis. FIELD would welcome feedback on the briefing paper.

## **Introduction**

The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010. The Conference of the Parties is the governing body of the CBD and at present reviews its implementation every two years.

Biodiversity is seriously affected by climate change. It also makes an important contribution to mitigation and adaptation efforts. Consequently, COP10 will address climate change related issues at different times and in connection with several agenda items.

All meeting documents are available through <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>. The agenda is contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1 - No 1 of the listed documents. Further explanations are contained in the *Annotations to the provisional agenda* (document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.1, No 2 on <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>).

This briefing provides an overview on issues in the deliberations that specifically relate to REDD-plus:

**Cooperation with other Conventions, organisations, stakeholders etc.  
(agenda item 4.9)**

A report by the Executive Secretary to CBD (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/17, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>, No 23) provides an update to the Parties on the activities of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio conventions.

The JLG was established by the secretariats of the UNFCCC, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the CBD to promote cooperation among the three conventions. For further information on the JLG please refer to: <http://www.unep.org/dec/onlinemanual/Compliance/InternationalCooperation/EnhancingSecretariatCooperation/Resource/tabid/724/Default.aspx>.

As a collaborative outreach activity the secretariats of the conventions created the *Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion* - a platform for awareness-raising and information sharing about the latest findings on linkages between biodiversity, climate change and desertification. The Pavilion at COP 10 will feature several events, lectures and thematic displays. The UN REDD Programme will organise a workshop series during each evening in the first week of the Pavilion.

For more information on the Pavilion, see: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2010/ntf-2010-101-eco-cc-en.pdf>.

In his report the Executive Secretary proposes, *inter alia*, that the COP authorises him to collaborate with the other Rio conventions, and the Government of Brazil to ensure that cooperation among the Rio conventions is reflected at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012 - for example through the Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion. For further information on the Rio+20 summit please refer to: <http://www.uncsd2012.org>.

## **Issues for in-depth consideration (item 5) and other substantive issues (item 6)**

COP10 will review the CBD's work within different thematic areas. The review and a set of draft decisions for the COP have been prepared by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

The full report of the SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/3) is available through <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10> (No 5 of the listed documents).

### **Protected areas (item 5.4)**

With regard to protected areas the draft decision, *inter alia*, invites Parties to

- Identify areas that are important for biodiversity conservation as well as for carbon sequestration and maintenance of carbon stocks, and where appropriate include them in the protected areas systems;
- Develop tools to be used by relevant national authorities and stakeholders for the joint planning of protected area networks and climate change mitigation and adaptation measures; and

- Explore how funding opportunities under climate-change adaptation and mitigation strategies could contribute to the implementation of the programme of work on protected areas.

The draft decision further *reminds* the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC of the role protected areas may play in adaptation and mitigation strategies and the need to support projects related to adaptation and mitigation in protected areas.

It is still disputed between the Parties whether the Executive Secretary of the CBD will be tasked to convene a special meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions in 2011 for the purpose of recommending a *joint working programme on protected areas, biodiversity, climate change and land degradation* to COP16 of the UNFCCC in Cancun (Mexico).

The full set of draft decisions under this agenda item are contained in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>, No 3, pages 120-127.

#### **Sustainable use of biodiversity (item 5.5)**

The SBSTTA could not agree whether to recommend to the COP the establishment of an *Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Sustainable Use of Biodiversity in Agriculture and Forestry, including Non-Timber Forest Products*. Consequently the recommendation and draft terms of reference were placed in square brackets. (See UNEP/COP/10/1/Add.2, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>, No 3, page 136).

Based on comments from Parties and relevant organisations, SBSTTA has proposed a new outline for the terms of reference. This includes the following elements:

- An overall goal of the expert group could be to review relevant criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the context of the discussions on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and other policy developments.
- This work should build on the work of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF – see below) and its members.
- The expert group would report to COP11 on its findings related to agriculture and to COP12 on its findings related to forestry.

The full outline, the rationale for its establishment and further background information are contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/21, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>, No 28, pages 4-6.

#### **Biodiversity and climate change (item 5.6)**

In connection with afforestation, reforestation and forest restoration activities for climate-change mitigation, the draft decision invites Parties and other governments to

- Convert only land of low biodiversity value or ecosystems largely composed of non-native species, and preferably degraded ones;
- Choose local and acclimated native tree species when selecting species for planting;
- Avoid invasive alien species; and
- Strategically locate afforestation activities within the landscape to enhance connectivity and increase the provision of ecosystem services within forest areas.

The degree to which the involvement or participation of indigenous and local communities should be required in the context of REDD-plus activities is disputed between the Parties (and the relevant text bracketed).

There are also divergent opinions with regard to the need and process for developing a joint work programme between the three Rio conventions. To explore the possibilities of such an initiative the CBD secretariat consulted parties, non-governmental organisations and others through an online survey. The results are summarised in document UNEP/CBD/COP/10/23, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>, No 30. Many respondents supported the identification and adoption of a process to take place over the coming two years, in time for the Rio+20 Earth Summit.

With regard to the form of a joint work programme, there are two main proposals:

- To focus on key themes around which joint activities should be developed – e.g. joint workshops and guidance on REDD; or
- To focus on building an enabling environment for synergies at the national and international levels - e.g. mechanisms for the formulation of common national positions in negotiations on similar topics.

For the full set of draft decision under this agenda item please refer to UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1/Add.2, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=COP-10>, No 3, pages 141-148.

### **Forest Biodiversity (item 6.3)**

To identify, develop and implement joint activities the secretariats of the CBD and the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding in December 2009.

The UNFF is an intergovernmental policy forum that comprises all UN member States and specialised agencies, meeting at annual sessions. Through UN General Assembly Resolution 62/98 the UNFF adopted a non-binding agreement on all types of forests. To support the UNFF and other work on forests the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) currently comprising 14 international organisations and convention secretariats was established in April 2001. For further information on the UNFF and the CPF see <http://www.un.org/esa/forests> and <http://www.fao.org/forestry/cpf/en>.

COP16 is expected to request the Executive Secretary to further collaborate with the UNFF to support Parties, in particular developing countries, in the implementation of the

programme of work on forest biodiversity and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, through, for example,

- further capacity-building on how forest biodiversity and climate change could be better addressed in national biodiversity and forest policies, and
- streamlining forest-related reporting.

The Executive Secretary may also be requested to collaborate with the members of the CPF, other initiatives and the Parties to engage with the discussions on REDD. The potential scope of his mandate is not yet clear (e.g. *'contribute to the discussions'* or *'provide advice'*).

To strengthen the implementation of its programme of work in tropical forests the CBD Secretariat also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in March 2010. The ITTO is an intergovernmental organisation governed by the International Tropical Timber Agreement which promotes the sustainable use and trade of tropical forest resources. For further information see <http://www.itto.int>.

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