



# Rio Conventions' ECOSYSTEMS PAVILION

Linking biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management

## FIRST EDITION

### Pavilion News Digest, 19 October, 2010

*The Rio Conventions' Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity involving the Rio Convention secretariats, with the Global Environment Facility and other important partners*

#### **The linkages between biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management: Opening Day Monday, 18 October, Nagoya**

**Three issues, one approach:** The world did not meet the global target of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Instead, the global extinction rate is rising and delegates from 177 countries poured into Nagoya today to see what can be done about that during the two-week Conference of the Parties.

Amid the work that started today—working groups were formed to look at a host of key issues, such as a new protocol to fairly share the world's genetic resources, a new strategy that has new targets for addressing biodiversity loss and the search for resources for doing that. But it was also the opening for a new idea—that the three UN Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Desertification can come together to see how they can promote solutions that take aim at all three issues in one go.



Mr. Melchiade Bukuru, UNCCD Secretariat, Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif Executive Secretary, CBD and Mr. Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment of Japan.

“The three Conventions are inseparable,” said Ryu Matsumoto, Minister of the Environment of Japan as he opened the inaugural session of the Ecosystem Pavilion. Climate-caused sea level rise, he said, will cause coastal areas to suffer,

including the destruction of coral reefs, mangroves, and marine ecosystems, which will again contribute to further climate change and he hoped the discussions in Pavilion would bear “large fruit.”

“My mother always used three stones to support her cooking pot,” said Melchiade Bukuru, from the Desertification Convention Secretariat, introduced the opening session of the Rio Conventions' Ecosystems Pavilion. “She always said that if you took away one stone, we will go to bed hungry,” adding that three conventions are inextricably linked.

**A Pavilion on the Go**—The Pavilion, involving the three Conventions and a host of partners, will be a travelling road show that will connect the Conferences of the Conventions starting with Nagoya and then moving to the Cancun Climate Conference in December, in October 2011 to the UNCCD COP 10 in Changwon, Republic of Korea, and in December 2011 to the UNFCCC COP 17 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the SCBD, said the momentum of this collaborative initiative should be extended to the Rio +20 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

**A climate for extinction**—Paul Leadley, from Université Paris-Sud (France) and DIVERSITAS said climate change is projected to have large impact on species extinction and while extinction rates might not be as high as 50 per cent, climate change is, in any case, one of the main driver in this process. The strongest prediction that Mr. Leadley draws from scenarios of biodiversity

change is that species and biomes will move around in the future. Very large changes in vegetation cover are expected, with high impacts on biodiversity and land-use. The Amazon Rain Forest is actually “drying out,” he says, adding that with deforestation, the water exchange with the atmosphere is changed in a significant way, leading to a considerable reduction in the amount of rain over very large areas. “The conservation of the Amazon Rain Forest would fosters the aims of all three Rio Conventions.”

**Putting Ecosystems to work**— Saving the world’s forests as part of the solution to climate change, though not new, has received much attention through the development of the REDD mechanism that places a value on the forests. Ian Noble, member of the Second Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change, said there were other areas that could benefit from a REDD mechanism, he also insisted on the fact that we still largely ignore the



Ms. Karin Zaunberger and of the European Commission and Mr. Luca Montanarella of the Joint Research Centre

Karin Zaunberger of the European Commission said swift integrated measures that include both green technology and natural solutions could address biodiversity decline and climate change. Innovative approaches include eco-towns, artificial waterways in cities and new ways of city planning like shopping-malls under ground, with only a green area on the surface.

functioning of many ecosystems. “The scientific community,” he said, “will continue to face tremendous challenges with regard to improving our knowledge and understanding of biodiversity issues, as well as to using ecosystems in an appropriate way.”

**Small Islands feel the heat**—Tremendous impacts as a result of climate change are in store for small island States, according to Thomas



Dr. Spencer Thomas, Grenada

Spencer of Grenada, who said it was vital to tackle issues of climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation as a “holistic package”. Some of the major issues are sea-rise level, saline intrusion into coastal aquifers, destruction of coral reefs and fisheries habitats, and impacts of stronger tropical cyclones – with a major concern being the frequency of those events.

**All in the soil**—As the “skin of the earth,” soil biodiversity figures large in climate change, desertification, and biodiversity issues, says Luca Montanarella, from the Joint Research Centre. He says soils rich in organic carbon are also rich in biodiversity and that there is a large biodiversity pool below ground. Soil protection provides a win-win-win solution.

**Getting the job done**—In theory, it seems easy, but Nik Sekhran of UNDP illustrated some of the uncertainties. Climate change will have an impact on the structure and function of ecosystems, which may retard their ability to provide services necessary for adaptation. Second, there is uncertainty regarding the costs and benefits of ecosystem based approaches to adaptation relative to other adaptation options.



<http://ecosystemspavilion.org>

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**Public perceptions**—Ryo Koshaka from Nagoya City University contended that there has been a shift in the way Japanese society perceives climate change as oranges are increasingly produced in more northern areas, while the price

for food, including the Japanese's favourite, rice, is steadily increasing as a result of successive heat waves. He said it was key to link ecosystems to the benefits they provide.



**The Pavilion logo – overlapping spheres** – In developing a logo for the Pavilion, we wanted to encompass a few key things: to develop a logo that reflected community and partnership as well as the broad scope and breadth of issues pertinent to the Pavilion. We also wanted a logo that appealed to all and is, of course, distinctive. The overlapping four spheres reflect the connection between biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management, the diverse ecosystems of the world and the communities and partnerships that can make change possible.

## Ecosystems Pavilion Programme Overview

18 October, Monday	<i>The linkages between biodiversity, sustainable land management and climate change</i> With the European Commission and other partners	Evening Sessions – Reducing emissions from degradation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD) <i>With UNEP and other UN REDD members</i>
19 October, Tuesday	<i>Key role of protected areas in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies</i> With IUCN WCPA and other partners	Session 1: Inter-linkages of biodiversity, carbon and economics
20 October, Wednesday	<i>Indigenous peoples and communities – benefits and livelihoods</i> With UNDP, Conservation International and other partners	Session 2: Traditional knowledge in conserving biodiversity and carbon
21 October, Thursday	<i>Forest biodiversity: mitigation and adaptation – the linked benefits provided by forests</i> With members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other partners	Session 3: Environmental safeguards and REDD
22 October, Friday	<i>Water, Ecosystems and Climate Change</i> With SCBD and other partners	Session 4: Measuring and monitoring of biodiversity and ecosystem services within REDD
23 October, Saturday	<i>UNCCD Land Day 3</i>	Session 5 (11am -1:30 pm): Empowerment of the biodiversity constituency in REDD processes
		<b>Evening Sessions – Commitments and international cooperation for financing synergies, in partnership with CBD's LifeWeb</b>
25 October, Monday	<i>Economics of ecosystem services and biodiversity, climate change and land management</i> With TEEB and other partners	Session 1: Mesoamerican financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring Costa Rica Forever and other national initiatives
26 October, Tuesday	<i>Ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation</i> With IUCN, ICLEI and other partners	Session 2: Caribbean and Micronesian financing synergies through protected-area solutions
27 October, Wednesday	<i>Promoting synergies for sustainable development and poverty reduction</i> With UNDP and other partners	Session 3: South American financing synergies through protected area solutions, featuring the Pan-Amazonian Vision
28 October, Thursday	<i>Ecosystems and Climate Change Pavilion Summit: Moving Towards Rio+20</i>	Session 4: West African Coastal and Marine financing synergies through protected area solutions

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