



Biodiversity Monthly Newsletter

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FAO Reports on Global Forest Land Use Change From 1990-2005

16 December 2012: The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) has released a forestry paper reporting on global forest and land use change over the period 1990 to 2005.

The report, prepared by the FAO and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) is based on the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2010 Remote Sensing Survey and is based on Landsat satellite imagery from 1990, 2000 and 2005.

Overall, the report indicates an annual change from forest to other land use of three million hectares per year between 1990 and 2000 with the rate of loss doubling between 2000 and 2005. This loss equates to a decrease in forest land use of 1.7% over the study period.

The report emphasizes that there are significant regional disparities with Asia and North America, recording net increases in forest land use while all other regions registered losses, with the greatest losses occurring in South America. Furthermore the report reveals that the rate of loss within tropical forests was 2.5 times higher than all other forest types. **Source: FAO**

FAO Stresses Importance of Neglected Crops to Tackle Climate and Food Security Challenges

10 December 2012: Addressing a seminar on “Crops for the 21st Century,” José Graziano da Silva, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), described the importance of conserving crop diversity, noting that approximately 7,000 plant species have been consumed as food throughout human history, and that many of these species are disappearing.

Da Silva underscored the role of neglected crops in responding to food security and adapting to climate change. According to FAO, the majority of calories consumed around the world come from rice, maize, wheat and potatoes. The Director-General

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called for attention to production challenges through sustainable intensification of agriculture, as well as attention to sustainable food consumption, underscoring that almost 870 million people are hungry, and even more are overweight or obese.

The seminar also saw the start of the International Year of Quinoa (2013). Quinoa has high nutritional value and is adaptable to many conditions.

The Seminar on Crops for the 21st Century is taking place in Cordova, Spain, from 10-13 December 2012. The meeting is being co-organized by partners including FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Bioversity International. Bioversity International is a research center of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). **Source: FAO**

Mainstreaming the issue of ecosystem services and land valuation discussed

20 December 2012, The Global Mechanism of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in collaboration with the OSLO (Offering Sustainable Land--use Options) Consortium, the Government of Rwanda and the Land Policy Initiative, recently organized a sub-regional Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building Workshop for Eastern Africa on the Economic Valuation of Land and Ecosystem Services.

The workshop took place from 10-13 December 2012, in Kigali, Rwanda. It was the first in a series of workshops on Economic Valuation of Land and Ecosystem Services being produced by the Global Mechanism in collaboration with the OSLO Consortium.

Participants at the Rwanada workshop discussed, inter alia, ecosystem services, valuation of the total economic value of land, natural capital accounting, methodological approaches, decision support tools, and case studies. During a panel discussion on the final afternoon of the workshop, participants underlined the importance of, inter alia: balancing investment needs with the needs of the community; ensuring that land transactions happen at fair, equitable prices; and mainstreaming the issue of ecosystem services and land valuation. Participants also

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noted a need for innovative ways to encourage shifts in the ways that the private and public sectors look at ecosystem services, including through capacity building.

Meeting organizers have indicated that a formal outcome document will be prepared in conjunction with the Land Policy Initiative, which will include official plans for long-term collaboration with the Government of Rwanda to take steps towards integrating ecosystem service valuation into national valuation strategies.

Sixth Forest Day Focuses on Interlinkages between Forests and Agriculture

3 December 2012: Forest Day 6 was convened by members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) on the margins of the 18th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Day, which took place on 2 December 2012, at the Renaissance Doha City Center Hotel, in Doha, Qatar, convened under the theme 'Living Landscapes – Solutions for a Sustainable World,' focusing on the links between forests and agriculture, as well as their impacts on people and society. Forest Day was followed by Agriculture, Landscapes and Livelihoods Day 5, which took place at the same venue on 3 December.

Forest Day provided an opportunity for those interested in forests to discuss the latest science and research, and identify ways for forests to be integrated into global and national policy on climate change. Particular negotiation issues included progress and follow up on the agreements reached at the 17th session of the COP to the UNFCCC concerning reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+).

The Days' events also sought to discuss how REDD+ can effectively produce social and environmental benefits, and ways and means to ensure good governance and sustainable, long-term financing for REDD+, as well as the enhanced integration of forests into climate change adaptation.

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CIFOR is a member of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

African Workshop Addresses Integration of CMS, CITES Objectives into NBSAPs

7 December 2012: A regional workshop for Africa focused on integrating the objectives of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

The workshop took place from 26-28 November 2012, in Harare, Zimbabwe, and was organized by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for Africa (ROA), with support from Germany, Japan and Switzerland. The workshop gathered representatives of African focal points as well as of UNEP, CMS and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

According to the CMS Secretariat, participants prioritized key areas of synergy among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), in integrating countries' international obligations into revised NBSAPs. They also developed common best-practice guidelines with tangible targets to improve policy, legal and administrative coordination of biodiversity-related MEAs in the process of revising NBSAPs at the national level.

Francisco Rilla, CMS, presented the new concept for the CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species for the period 2015-2023, highlighting the need to integrate migratory species into revisions of NBSAPs, as also noted in a CMS guidance.

Ethiopia and Fiji ratify international treaty on use of genetic resources

20 November 2012 – Fiji and Ethiopia have become the 8th and 9th Parties to the CBD respectively to deposit their instruments of ratification for the Nagoya Protocol

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on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The ratifications come on the heels of the ratification of the Protocol by India during the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 11) in Hyderabad. The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the deposit of the fiftieth instrument of ratification. The Seychelles, Rwanda, Gabon, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Mexico have also ratified the Protocol.

At COP 11 in Hyderabad, Parties demonstrated a clear commitment towards the early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. Parties agreed on activities for the next biennium, including the reconvening of the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol for a third meeting in preparation for the first meeting of the COP-MOP. COP 11 also provided guidance to the Global Environment Facility (the financial mechanism of the Protocol) to support the Nagoya Protocol, emphasizing the importance of financial and technical support aimed at promoting its ratification and implementation.

Braulio Ferreira de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity said: "The ratifications by Fiji and Ethiopia further demonstrate that Parties recognize the importance of entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol as a tool for advancing the objectives of the Convention and realizing sustainable development."

At COP 11, Parties to the Convention had the opportunity to exchange on the progress made towards ratification and implementation of the Protocol. A number of Parties highlighted that they are currently working towards the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol.

In order to become Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, Parties to the Convention that have signed the Protocol may deposit an instrument of ratification, acceptance or approval with the Depository. Parties to the Convention that have not signed the Protocol, but still wish to become Parties, may accede to the Protocol by depositing

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an instrument of accession with the Depositary. Ratification, acceptance, approval and accession have the same legal effect. Source: www.cbd.int