



22 MAY 2016
**INTERNATIONAL DAY
 FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**
Mainstreaming Biodiversity;
 Sustaining People and their Livelihoods

Sustainable Forestry

Forests are much more than trees. The biodiversity of these vast biomes span tropical and temperate areas, and provide the foundation for ecosystem services that support poverty eradication, food security, medicines, energy and clean water. As the most biologically-diverse ecosystems on land, forests are home to more than 80 per cent of the terrestrial species of animals, plants and insects. They provide shelter, jobs and security for forest-dependent communities, with approximately 1.6 billion people relying on forest resources for their livelihoods, with most of them (1.2 billion) using trees on farms to generate food and cash.

Forests play an important role in both adaptation and mitigation of climate change, as they provide local ecosystem services relevant for adaptation as well as the global ecosystem service of carbon sequestration, relevant for mitigation. They help protect against natural hazards such as landslides, help reduce soil erosion and provide short-term relief efforts and long-term recovery and prevention of future disasters.

Forests are also crucial to the sustainable management of water ecosystems and resources. In fact, the links between forests and fresh water are inseparable. Forests protect water resources, helping to ensure a supply of safe, clean water for some of the world's largest cities, approximately one third of which obtain a significant proportion of their drinking water directly from forested protected areas.

Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Efforts to conserve and restore forest ecosystems can profoundly contribute to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as well as other internationally agreed goals, such as the four Global Objectives on Forests of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable



Convention on
 Biological Diversity



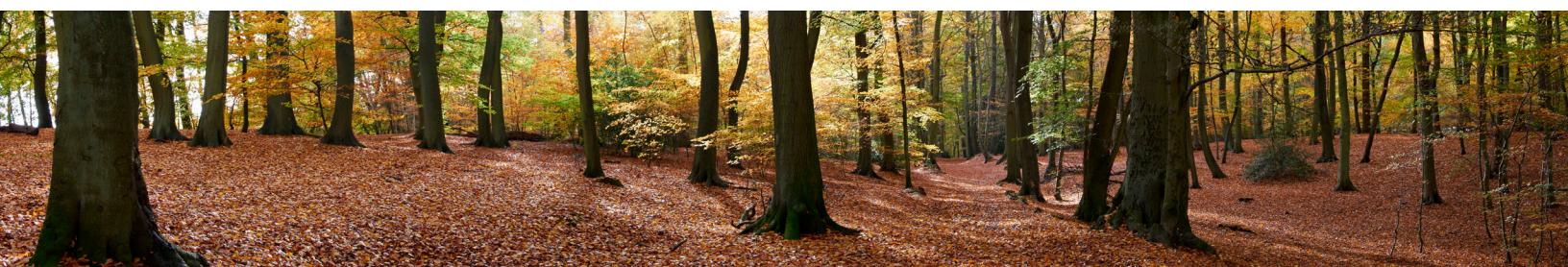
COP12 / MOP7 / MOP1
 PYEONGCHANG KOREA 2014



Development Goals, particularly Goal 15 (“Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”), and initiatives such as the Bonn Challenge of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration.

The Convention on Biological Diversity and its partners, such as the FAO, are making every effort to raise awareness of the importance of restoring forest landscapes to improve livelihoods and biodiversity, as well as assisting with the development of policies and tools that promote the interconnectedness of water resources and forests. The FAO’s Sustainable Forest Management Toolbox, for example, brings together a wide range of guidelines, manuals, knowledge products, case studies and other tools produced by FAO and its partners in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

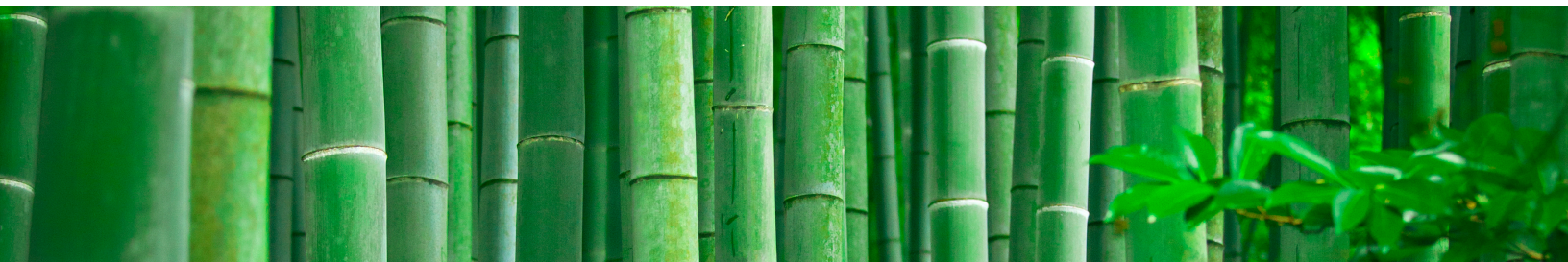
A central focus of the Convention’s work has been to support countries in developing ecosystem conservation and restoration plans, using an integrated landscape-wide approach to promote policy, planning and economic tools, and monitoring and evaluation systems, to achieve the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Targets. To assist countries in achieving these targets, the Korea Forest Service launched the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (FERI) in 2014, in the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. Envisaged to be a six-year initiative, FERI serves as a mechanism for assisting Parties in assessing the potential costs and benefits of restoration. It builds on the Hyderabad Call for a Concerted Effort on Ecosystem Restoration initiated in October 2012 by the Governments of India, the Republic of Korea and South Africa, as well as by the heads of many international conventions and organizations.





Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Five of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a set of time-bound, measurable targets agreed by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010, are particularly relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. In Target 5, the international community aims to at least halve, and where feasible bring close to zero, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests. It also calls for a significant reduction in degradation and fragmentation. Target 7 aims that, by 2020, areas under forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. Target 11 aims that at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas. Target 14 aims that ecosystems which provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable. And Target 15 aims that, by 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks is enhanced through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems. According to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, Aichi Targets 5 and Target 15 are not being met. And while global rates of deforestation are declining, they remain alarmingly high. The total area of land remaining in natural or semi-natural conditions has shown a downward trend in recent decades and would decline further by 2020 if recent trends continue.





COP 13

At COP 12, countries called for the reintroduction of agriculture, forestry and fisheries into the list of strategic actions for mainstreaming and integrating biodiversity to be considered by COP 13. Forestry will be one of the main themes discussed at the High-Level Segment of COP 13. Recommendations for strategic actions on mainstreaming biodiversity within and across sectors, with a particular focus on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism, stemming from both the twentieth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, will be considered by Parties at COP 13.

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Important links

- Convention on Biological Diversity: www.cbd.int
- Aichi Biodiversity Targets: www.cbd.int/sp/targets
- Global Biodiversity Outlook 4: www.cbd.int/gbo4
- United Nations Decade on Biodiversity: www.cbd.int/2011-2020
- Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity: www.cbd.int/forest

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