

Side event on South-South and triangular cooperation at the Brazzaville Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Three Forest Basins of the Congo, Amazon and Borneo-Mekong

The Convention on Biological Diversity has been discussing a coordinated approach to South-South (SSC) and triangular cooperation as a complement to the traditional North-South mechanism since 2006. At CBD COP 10, the Group of 77 and China have adopted a Plan of Action on SSC on biodiversity for development, and Parties will examine the Plan for adoption at COP 11. To disseminate the initiative, the Secretariat of the CBD organized a side event at the margins of the Brazzaville Summit on Thursday June 2, 2011, from 13:00 to 14:30, at room 315 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Congo. The event showcased best practices in South-South and triangular cooperation on biodiversity and the implementation of a Plan of Action focused on capacity building for centres of excellence in developing countries, and was followed by a brief discussion.

Panellists

- Oliver Hillel, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo, Secretary General, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
- Martin Tadoum, Deputy Secretary General, Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale (COMIFAC)
- Fernando Tatagiba, Analyst, Ministry of Environment, Brazil

More than 64 participants included delegates from the Congo, RDC, Cameroon, Gabon, Germany, US, France, media representatives from Reuters and BBC, NGOs and executives from ITTO, UNESCO and IUCN. Mr. Hillel introduced the CBD's work on SSC and highlighted some aspects of the Multi-Year Plan of Action on SSC on biodiversity for development proposed by the Group of 77 and China for consideration and possible adoption at COP 11. Mr. Hillel's intervention is summarized in a slide presentation made available at the CBD's website at <http://www.cbd.int/ssc/presentations/>.

Ambassador Gordillo presented the evolution and main characteristics of ACTO and focused on its programmes of work on sustainable use of natural resources and forest biodiversity (considering 2011 as the International Year of Forests), timber certification, protected area systems, ecotourism, knowledge management and dissemination, capacity building, engagement and support to indigenous and local communities, land-cover assessments, awareness raising and climate change. He mentioned ACTO's vision and mission, and shared some short-term, mid-term and long-term goals in terms of integral forest management for the people of the Amazon. Ambassador Gordillo then reminded participants of the complementary nature of SSC and North-South/triangular cooperation, listing some of ACTO's international cooperation partners such as Germany and the EU.

Mr. Tadoum made a presentation about COMIFAC's areas of work and experience in SS and triangular cooperation, illustrated through a slide show, posted on the CBD's SSC website along with Mr. Hillel's. In sequence, Mr. Tatagiba presented some examples of Brazil's areas of expertise in ongoing SSC, such as tropical agriculture and agroforestry

(through EMBRAPA), forest policies, protected areas management (through ICMBio), and satellite-based and almost real-time land-use and forest cover changes (for instance through INPE), always reminding participants that there were still many challenges to overcome, and that much of the technologies had been developed originally with support from traditional North-South cooperation from many countries including Germany, Norway, the United Kingdom and Japan. He also said that, due to Brazil's heterogeneous development levels throughout its 5,500 municipalities and 27 States, much was still to be accomplished and Brazil and its regional partners clearly still needed significant technical and financial support from developed Parties and partners. All presenters highlighted the importance of regional and global cooperation on biodiversity for development.