



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**



UNEP



WCMC



2010 - The Global Biodiversity Challenge
21 – 23 May 2003
London, United Kingdom

Introductory Note

Introduction:

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in partnership with the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and financial support from the Governments of the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, is convening an international meeting on “**2010 – The Global Biodiversity Challenge**” to be held in London, UK from 21 to 23 May 2003. This meeting will coincide with the International Day for Biological Diversity, on 22 May.

The meeting is a direct response to [decision VI/26](#) adopted at the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in April 2002. In that decision, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for the Convention, which commits Parties to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level. This target was endorsed by the [Hague Ministerial Declaration](#) of 14 April 2002 and by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in its Plan of Implementation.

Objectives of the meeting:

The main objective of the meeting is to articulate a framework for action for achieving the internationally agreed 2010 target. The specific objectives of the meeting are:

- a) To review means in place for achieving the target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;
- b) To review and agree on approaches for measuring and assessing achievements towards meeting the 2010 target; and
- c) To review and agree on the most appropriate approaches for reporting on progress.

This meeting is also part of the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners that specifically focus on integrating biodiversity issues in initiatives aimed at meeting the Millennium Development Goals. These initiatives acknowledge the

Convention on Biological Diversity as an appropriate framework for further elaboration of the priority actions required to enhance the issue of integration of biodiversity in international and local efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The upcoming London meeting is therefore seen as an appropriate mechanism for placing biodiversity issues high on the global agenda for addressing the MDGs and thus opportunities to build on the momentum of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. The outcome of the meeting and the associated follow-up work are expected to ensure wider recognition of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services in poverty alleviation in the context of sustainable development.

Expected outputs:

The meeting is expected to generate the following outputs:

- a) Clearer understanding of the meaning of biodiversity loss, and the actions that are being taken to assess the status of biodiversity at all levels, and those factors that impact on biodiversity
- b) Identification of how existing and proposed initiatives to reduce biodiversity loss address the 2010 target, both at national and international levels
- c) Within each of these areas:
 - i. Recommendations on how to report on progress and achievements
 - ii. Identification of priority actions .
 - iii. A framework to guide practical follow-up of the identified priority action items including timelines, key milestones, specific deliverables and a reporting framework.
 - iv. Identification of potential roles and responsibilities of governments, academic and research institutions, the private sector and other national organizations, existing international organizations including the conventions, as well as global and regional assessment processes and programmes
- d) A report of the meeting and related appropriately-focused documents and information papers

The outcome(s) of the meeting will be submitted for the consideration of the ninth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity in November 2003 and the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in April 2004. It is anticipated that the outcome(s) of the meeting will also be considered by the governing bodies of a range of other international biodiversity-related conventions and programmes.

Participation:

The meeting, which will be conducted in English, will bring together approximately 150 participants invited by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including Government nominated experts and representatives of biodiversity-related conventions, UN agencies, academic and research institutions, industry/business sector, local and indigenous communities, international and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Documentation:

A provisional agenda and information for participants with details of the meeting venue, recommended hotel accommodation, travel and related logistical arrangements are available on the CBD Website (<http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meeting.asp?wg=GBC-01>).