

Nagoya Declaration on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation

We, the representatives of Development Cooperation Policy Institutions and Agencies and partners participating in the High Level Forum on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation in Nagoya, Japan, on 26 October 2010, at the occasion of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity:

Recognize that biodiversity provides essential life-supporting functions and ecosystem services such as food production, water purification, soil fertility and climate regulation; and that the poor are particularly and often directly dependent on sound viable ecosystems for their livelihoods; and that well managed ecosystems can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to mitigation and increase resilience to the impact of climate change, contributing to adaptation;

Welcome the resolution adopted during the 65th United Nations General Assembly and the Millennium Development Goals Summit in New York, in September 2010 stressing the importance of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly poverty eradication;

Reaffirm that national ownership and leadership are indispensable in the development process and reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

Appreciate the work of the Biodiversity for Development and Poverty Alleviation Initiative at SCBD;

Emphasize the importance of utilizing the opportunity provided by the impending revision of National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAPs), to integrate the three objectives of CBD into poverty reduction strategies or equivalent national development plans;

Welcome The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) report which demonstrates that natural capital – our ecosystems, biodiversity and renewable natural resources – underpins economies, societies and human well-being;

Welcome the policy statement on integrating biodiversity and associated ecosystem services into development cooperation endorsed by the OECD-DAC Senior Level Meeting in 2010;

Recalling the commitments in the Paris Declaration that aid effectiveness requires country ownership, alignment, harmonization, and shared responsibility as well as managing for results and mutual accountability, and the Accra Agenda for Action that requires commitments to supporting country ownership including through greater use of country systems and provision of “demand driven” capacity development;

Recognizing the importance of respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities as development affects their traditional areas and livelihoods;

Further recognize the need to:

- Emphasize the main objective of promoting development approaches with least impact on biological resources and ecosystem services and with no irreversible damages, contributing to the three objectives of the CBD;
- Promote economic policy tools that eradicate poverty, preserve biodiversity and catalyse sustainable ecosystem management, such as removal of perverse incentives, advances environment-related taxation and sustainable consumption patterns;
- Improve decision-making related to ecosystem management through methodical use of environmental assessment tools, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA), and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
- Support regulatory and voluntary means to augmenting social and environmental responsibility of development agencies and their partners, in the design and implementation of sectoral development plans such as agriculture, water management, energy, infrastructures, industrial products, urban development, especially by enhancing the use of EIA and applying the objectives of avoiding, mitigating and offsetting negative impacts on biodiversity;
- Promote investment in transparent and accountable governance frameworks for biodiversity and ecosystem services to build resilience for adaptation to impacts of climate change and for mitigation of climate change;
- Support actions for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and ensure the positive synergies of these actions with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and transparent and effective national forest governance structures, while respecting the knowledge, rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and members of local communities;
- Address the gender dimensions of biodiversity management by taking into account their different roles in management of ecosystem services and biodiversity resources;
- Consider improving the accuracy of indicators for measuring contribution of development cooperation agencies to global biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of the use of Rio markers;
- Enhance the continuous efforts to improve synergies and sharing of experience among development cooperation agencies to achieve optimum coherence between poverty eradication and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

26 October 2010, Nagoya, Japan