



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/OES/AD/ar/57364

8 February 2007

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Strategic Partnership between Portugal and Africa

Dear Madam/Sir,

I am pleased to inform you that a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to enhance human and institutional capacities in Africa for the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was signed on 7 February 2007 in Nairobi at the margins of the twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The MoC was signed by His Excellency Mr. Francisco Nunes Correia, Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of the Government of Portugal, Professor Firmino Mucavale, Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

You will find attached a Press Release issued on the launch of this initiative, as well as a copy of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation. Please note that the French and Portuguese versions of the Press Release are also available on the Secretariat's website.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: CBD, CPB, SBSTTA and ABS Focal Points





Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

PRESS RELEASE

22 May 2007
International Day for Biological Diversity



Biodiversity and Climate Change

For use of media only
Not an official document.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND AFRICA FOR PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY FOR DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED IN NAIROBI

Montreal – 7 February 2007

A Memorandum of Cooperation to enhance human and institutional capacities in Africa for the effective implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was signed in Nairobi at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) by His Excellency Mr. Francisco Nunes Correia, the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of the Government of Portugal, Professor Firmino Mucavale, the Chief Executive Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

This strategic partnership will promote capacity-building through training and exchange of experiences and best practices among the national focal points for the Convention, its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the focal points of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and other senior policy makers. A series of training workshops will be organized jointly by the partners on issues of critical importance to the implementation phase of the Convention and its Protocol in the context of the environment component of the NEPAD initiative. It will also provide an opportunity to share Portuguese experience regarding the implementation of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The signatories will, in the context of South-South cooperation, facilitate the exchange of experts, study tours and fellowships between Portugal and selected African countries; establish information networks and databases to facilitate the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned; and disseminate this information to all interested regions, with a view to promoting similar initiatives with other regions and Parties to the Convention and the Protocol.

In launching this partnership, His Excellency Mr. Francisco Nunes Correia said, "Portugal is very pleased to be associated with this initiative and make its biodiversity experience at the service of the African countries at a critical juncture of the implementation of their biodiversity agenda".

Prof. Mucavele stated, "Africa's biodiversity is critical for its sustainable development and we applaud Portugal leadership and invites other development partners to the same to assist African countries to protect their unique biodiversity at the service of their legitimate development needs and aspirations".

Mr. Sekou Toure, the UNEP Regional Director for Africa, said, "I am very pleased that this initiative will also enhance the current implementation of the work programme of the African Ministerial Conference on Environment by enhancing the human and institutional capacity at national and regional level of the African countries".



Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of the UNEP Division of Environmental Conventions stated, “I am very pleased that the launch of this initiative is taking place at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme and hosted by the Division of Environment Conventions, which aims at ensuring synergy and complementarities between biodiversity related Conventions and build capacity of major stakeholders, particularly that of African Countries. This initiative will enhance and complement the UNEP Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building.”

Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif stated, “This partnership is a unique mechanism to assist African countries enhance the implementation of the objectives of the Convention and to adequately respond to the unprecedented challenges of conserving their unique biodiversity capital for combating poverty and promoting the social and economic development of African peoples as envisaged by the NEPAD initiative.”

Information for Journalists:

New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)

The New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) is a vision and strategic framework for Africa’s renewal. The NEPAD strategic framework document arises from a mandate given to the five initiating Heads of State (Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa) by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to develop an integrated socio-economic development framework for Africa. The 37th Summit of the OAU in July 2001 formally adopted the strategic framework document. NEPAD aims to: eradicate poverty, to place African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development; to halt the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhance its full and beneficial integration into the global economy; and to accelerate the empowerment of women. <http://www.nepad.org/2005/files/inbrief.php>

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

For more information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: marie.khan@biodiv.org

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Between

**The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of the
Government of Portugal,**

The

Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

And

The Secretariat of the Convention Biological Diversity

**On capacity building for the implementation of the Convention on Biological
Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety**

The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of the Government of Portugal (hereinafter "the Ministry"), the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (hereinafter "the NEPAD Secretariat") and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter "the CBD Secretariat"), hereinafter referred to as the "Signatories",

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Bearing in mind the Articles 5 and 12 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (hereinafter "the Convention") and the Article 22 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (hereinafter "the Protocol") which encourage Parties to cooperate with other contracting Parties, in particularly with developing countries, and with international organizations on research, training and capacity-building,

Recalling also decision VII/26 of the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives,

Recalling further the decision of the second ordinary Assembly of the African Union endorsing the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD (Assembly/AU/Decision 10(11)) held in Maputo, Mozambique in July 2003 as well as the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development adopted through UNGA resolution 57/2 of 16 September 2002 by which Member States affirmed the need for international support for the implementation of the NEPAD,

Recognizing the need for capacity building for the implementation at the national level of the biodiversity-related components of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD as well as the sub-regional NEPAD environmental action plans and,

Recognizing also the need for promoting cooperation and coordination with a wide range of institutions, initiatives and processes to enhance human and institutional capacity to achieve the three objectives of the Convention,

Have decided as follows:

1. Objective

The objective of the present Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter “the Memorandum”) is to enhance human and institutional capacities in the Africa region for the effective implementation of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

2. Areas of Cooperation

2.1 The Signatories to this Memorandum will organize training workshops for the national focal points for the Convention and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the focal points of the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD as well as for other relevant government officials involved in the implementation of the Convention, the Protocol and the Action Plan.

2.2 Training workshops will focus on issues of critical importance to the implementation of the Convention, the Protocol and the Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD and its sub-regional action plans.

2.3 Training workshops will provide an opportunity to share, with African countries, the Portuguese experience regarding the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, and to identify areas for further cooperation.

2.4 The Signatories will facilitate the exchange of experts, study tours and fellowships between Portugal and selected African countries.

2.5 The Signatories will establish information networks and databases to facilitate the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned.

2.6 The Signatories will disseminate the lessons learned and best practices arising from the implementation of this Memorandum to all interested regions with a view of promoting similar initiatives with other regions and Parties to the Convention and the Protocol within the framework of the implementation of the Convention, the Protocol and Action Plan of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD.

3. Scope and Modalities of Cooperation

3.1 Training workshops will be jointly organized and developed by the Signatories.

3.2 The Signatories will jointly identify areas of focus for each training workshop.

3.3. The Signatories will jointly select trainees, experts and participants in the training workshops.

3. 4. The Signatories will exchange information, including lessons learned and best practices, training materials and other resources arising from the implementation of this Memorandum.

3.5 The Ministry will offer opportunities for study tours and fellowships to selected African experts.

3.6. The Ministry will, upon request by the NEPAD Secretariat, provide technical assistance on issues of implementation to requesting African countries. Such assistance may include the attachment of Portuguese experts to the relevant Ministry of the requesting country or to the NEPAD Secretariat.

4. Steering Committee

4.1 The Signatories to this Memorandum will establish a Steering Committee comprising the Minister of Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development of Portugal; the Chief Executive Officer of the NEPAD Secretariat, and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

4.2 The Steering Committee will meet on an annual basis to review the progress achieved and provide guidance on the implementation of this Memorandum.

5. Reporting

A report on the implementation of this Memorandum by the Steering Committee will be circulated as an information document to the meetings of the Conference of Parties to the Convention and to the NEPAD steering committee.

6. Financial Aspects

6.1 Joint activities under this Memorandum are subject to the availability of funding for that purpose.

6.2 The Signatories will undertake concerted fund raising initiatives for the implementation of activities under this Memorandum.

7. Review

This Memorandum may be reviewed and amended by mutual consent of the Signatories.

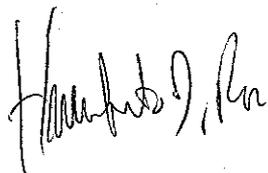
8. Entry into Force and Termination

8.1 This Memorandum will enter into force on the date of its signature.

8.2 This Memorandum will produce effects for an indeterminate period of time.

8.3 This Memorandum will cease to produce its effects six months after written notice of that intention is given by either Signatory.

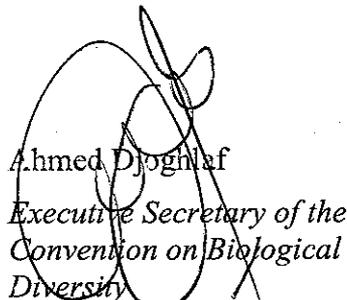
Signed this.....7TH day of ..FEBRUARY.....2007,



for Francisco Nunes Correia
*Minister of Environment,
Spatial Planning and
Regional Development of
Portugal*



Firmino G. Mucavele
*Chief Executive Officer of the
NEPAD Secretariat*



Ahmed Djoghaf
*Executive Secretary of the
Convention on Biological
Diversity*