

**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY****PRESS RELEASE**

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**THE PRESIDENT OF THE TUNISIAN REPUBLIC ANNOUNCES A  
DONATION TO THE "MUSEUM ON NATURE AND CULTURE" OF  
THE CONVENTION ON LIFE ON EARTH**

Montreal—22 June 2006

At their meeting in Tunis, on 20 June 2006, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, requested Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi, Prime Minister of Tunisia, to convey his gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Tunisian Republic, for his decision to add to the collection of the "Museum on Nature and Culture" with a work of art in the form of a mosaic reflecting the rich biological heritage of ancient Tunisia.

"This donation—the first of its kind by a Head of State—is highly significant and serves to demonstrate once again the commitment of His Excellency the President of the Tunisian Republic to the cause of protecting life on Earth, which has a dimension relating to culture, ethic and civilization that should not be under-estimated," said Mr. Djoghlaif.

This meeting was held on the margins of the International Scientific Conference on the Future of Drylands, organized to mark the International Year of Deserts and Desertification and held in Tunis with the participation of more than 300 world-renowned scientists. During his visit, the Executive Secretary also had talks with Mr. Mohamed Habib Haddad, Minister of Agriculture, and Mr. Nadhir Hammada, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia. The talks focused on the role of Tunisia in implementing the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

**Information for Journalists:**

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 Brazil in 1992, it currently has 188 Parties—187 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, Canada.

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