



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

PRESS RELEASE



Achieving the
2010
Biodiversity
Target

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Not an official document.

Signature of Memorandum of Understanding between the Green Belt Movement and the Convention on Biological Diversity



Nairobi, 16 November 2006 – Professor Wangari Maathai, MP, 2004 Nobel Peace Laureate and founder of the Green Belt Movement, and Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to plant trees in Africa “to ensure that the operations of the Secretariat will be carbon neutral and that appropriate measures are taken to offset their other environmental impacts” over the next two years.

Under the terms of the Memorandum, indigenous trees will be planted in order to maintain or restore biodiversity-rich habitats and support local livelihoods. Funded through voluntary contributions from bilateral and multilateral donors, all contributions will be made directly to the Green Belt Movement and donors will be invited to provide financial support on a multi-year basis for the implementation of the agreed activities.

In signing the agreement, Ahmed Djoghlaif said: “The 189 Parties to the Convention on Biodiversity—the Convention on all life on Earth—and their Secretariat comprising 67 staff have, through this agreement, shown the way ahead for future intergovernmental environmental conferences. We have therefore decided to commit ourselves to minimizing the environmental impact of the Secretariat processes by planting trees in Africa. We are truly honoured to join forces with the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Ms Wangari Maathai, and the Green Belt Movement to offset the environmental impact of our operations at a time when the Convention is aiming at enhancing the implementation of its objectives.”

In announcing this tangible expression of the ongoing efforts to green the Convention Secretariat, Mr. Djoghlaif emphasized that: “We in the United Nations environmental community need to ensure that our processes do not contribute to additional degradation of the environment.”

Professor Maathai stated, “I am very pleased to join forces with the Secretariat of the Convention by planting trees in Africa to offset the environmental impact of the Secretariat of a convention aimed at promoting biodiversity. Each tree is by itself a treasure of biodiversity, and represents both a symbolic and a very real commitment to the greening of the Secretariat’s operations.”



Information for Journalists:

Green Belt Movement International

The mission of the Green Belt Movement International (GBMI) is to empower individuals worldwide to protect the environment and to promote good governance and cultures of peace.

The vision of GBMI is a world in which the environment, democratic space, and peace are secure, and citizens are empowered to take action. To achieve this vision, GBMI has developed four bold and ambitious strategic goals:

- To strengthen and expand the Green Belt Movement in Kenya
- To share the Green Belt Movement's program with other countries in Africa and beyond
- To empower Africans, especially women and girls, and nurture their leadership and entrepreneurial skills
- Advocate internationally for the environment, good governance, equity and cultures of peace

<http://greenbeltmovement.org/w.php?id=21>

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, Brazil, in 1992, it currently has 189 Parties—188 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main objectives: the conservation of biodiversity, the 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.

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