



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

## PRESS RELEASE



Achieving the  
**2010**  
Biodiversity  
Target

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***Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,  
applauds the agreement between the Governments of Brunei Darussalam,  
Indonesia and Malaysia to conserve the “Heart of Borneo”***

*Montreal – 15 January 2007* The declaration by the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia to officially endorse a historic agreement to conserve the “Heart of Borneo” demonstrates, according to Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) “the commitment of these Governments to conserve one of the world’s most spectacular transboundary tropical rainforest biodiversity hotspots”.

The initiative aims to establish a network of transboundary protected areas across the borders of these three countries to maximize linkages, forest connectivity and sustainable land-use practices for effective management and conservation.

“The endorsement of the Heart of Borneo conservation initiative is a firm step toward achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, and implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s programmes of work on protected areas and forest biological diversity, said Mr. Djoghlaif. “This decision, taken at the Third Summit of the East ASEAN Growth Area, is of the greatest political significance and concretizes the initiative taken by these countries during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity held in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2006.”

Covering an area of 220,000 km<sup>2</sup> of mountainous regions, and lying within both terrestrial and freshwater Global 200 ecoregions prioritized for biodiversity of global significance, the Heart of Borneo is home to tremendous biodiversity, including ten primate species, over 350 bird species, 150 reptile and amphibian species, and 10,000 plant species. The forests harbour some of the most biologically diverse habitats on Earth and sustain rich, rare, endemic and unique biota, making it one of the only two places on Earth where endangered species such as orangutans, Asian elephants, Sumatran rhinoceros and proboscis monkey still co-exist.

Mr. Djoghlaif said the initiative also serves to highlight South-South cooperation on biodiversity, for which the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in partnership with the Group of 77, is in the process of preparing a multi-year programme of work to implement the three objectives of the Convention.

He added that: “In the era of the new enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention and greater focus on the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target, the Heart of Borneo initiative is a testimony to the resolve of these three ASEAN countries to spare no effort to meet the challenges of protecting life on Earth, and I congratulate them for their political will and commitment.”

### **Information for Journalists:**

#### **The Heart of Borneo**

The Heart of Borneo is a tri-country conservation initiative that aims to preserve one of the most important centres of biological diversity in the world. The three Bornean



governments—Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia—officially launched the initiative and declared their commitment to support it on 27 March 2006 during the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Curitiba, Brazil, in 2006.

### **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 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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