



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

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The City of Montreal signs a memorandum of understanding with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Montreal, 22 February 2007 – The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the City of Montreal today signed a memorandum of understanding officially linking Montreal's Nature Museums with the Steering Committee of the Secretariat's Consortium of Scientific Institutions and Partners. The memorandum establishes a formal framework for collaboration and exchange between the parties, aimed at developing and providing training programmes on strategic, technical or scientific issues for the effective implementation of the Convention.

The Nature Museums will benefit from this official link with other major scientific institutions around the world. It can only serve to enhance the sharing of expertise and the understanding of species conservation. On the other hand, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on biological diversity will benefit from the unique expertise of Montreal's Nature Museum research teams. Furthermore, with 1.7 million visitors annually, the Museums provide an exceptional showcase for raising the profile of the Secretariat and the enormous challenges related to biodiversity loss.

"I am delighted by this important recognition of our Nature Museums. The present understanding clearly shows the interest in Montreal and attachment to this city felt by the Secretariat, based here for the past ten years. It also testifies to how important it is for our city to host such international organizations and to the benefits we can draw from the sharing of information and expertise", said Mr. Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal.

It should be recalled that the City of Montreal has engaged in environmental and biodiversity protection with some determination through a number of measures, including its Urban Plan advocating an integrated approach to combating biodiversity loss in urban areas with the adoption and introduction of its innovative policy on environment and the preservation of Ecoterritories and natural heritage, its Sustainable Development Plan, which prioritizes the reduction of gas emissions, its Greening Plan and its tree policy, which was translated into reality with the planting of 9,000 trees in 2006. All these concrete measures and gestures show the extent of the concerns of the citizens of Montreal and their commitment to protecting the environment and biodiversity.

The City of Montreal's Nature Museums now join the six current member institutions of the Secretariat's Consortium of Scientific Partners: the *Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History* (USA), the *Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle* (France), the *Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew* (UK), the *German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation* (Germany), the *Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences* (Belgium) and the *National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development* (Saudi Arabia).



“As the Secretariat of one of the three Rio Conventions, we are extremely proud and honoured to be located in Montreal. Since its establishment in 1996, the United Nations Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity has always enjoyed the support of the Canadian authorities and the active engagement of the city of Montreal. At a time of a renewed commitment by the 190 Parties of this unique legal instrument aimed at protecting life on earth, I am delighted to note the enhanced support of the city of Montreal and in particular the personal engagement of Mr. Gérald Tremblay, the Mayor of Montreal, to the enhanced phase of implementation of the three objectives of the Convention. The agreement signed today is yet an additional testimony of such a commitment which is crucial in assisting the Secretariat to meet the unprecedented challenges of assisting Parties to implement their legal commitment to protect life on earth for the benefit of present and future generations”, added Mr Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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.

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