



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



INTERNATIONAL YEAR  
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## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Joint GEF and CBD Exploration for Financial Solutions to Global Biodiversity Challenges in Eastern Europe

*Montreal, 28 March 2011* – Participants in the first Eastern Europe Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance, held in Kiev on 25 March 2011, examined the national and regional implications of the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. The workshop, held back to back with the first Eastern Europe Expanded Constituency Workshop of the Global Environment Facility, included national focal points to both the Global Environment Facility and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“Greater understanding and coordination among the various focal points of each country will generate more integrated approaches. This set-up also allows for increased cooperation and exchange of experiences among the teams from the participating countries,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility.

Participants advocated that countries with economies in transition as a group should continue to be eligible for financial support from the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Participants encouraged the Global Environment Facility, in considering support to the entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, to adopt a project approach similar to its earlier support to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. In that context, they noted that it would be more effective to capitalize now, rather than later, on the “Nagoya momentum” to support development and implementation of national policy frameworks on access and benefit-sharing.

Participants emphasized the need for effective administration of existing and new protected areas as called for in the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as the need for further consideration to conserve genetic resources. Participants also debated what criteria should be used to calculate land and aquatic areas that can be eventually qualified for reporting under Aichi Target 11 of the Strategic Plan (i.e., “By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”).

“The Kiev workshop as well as the Brazzaville initiative, have demonstrated the key role of the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism of sustainable development in



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promoting global environmental coherence and synergies among the three Rio conventions and their financial mechanism,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Participants shared their experiences in mobilizing support for implementation of the Convention. Following the examples of Germany, the United Kingdom, and Spain to increase financial support for biodiversity, and also thanks to the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, national financial allocations for biodiversity also increased this year in Eastern European countries. Participants indicated that continuing financial leadership in financing biodiversity and ecosystem services from major developed countries and donors is not only a matter of moral or financial obligations under the Convention, but also of critical importance in efforts to mobilize domestic resources in countries with economies in transition.

Participants noted the general lack of experience and knowledge on innovative financial mechanisms as suggested in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in May 2008, and examined the role of Governments and the Convention in these suggested innovative financial mechanisms. It was emphasized that the comparative advantages of Governments and the Convention lie in the provision of policy, administrative, regulatory and legislative services, not in replacing the role of the private sector and non-governmental organizations in developing and advancing the market-based or market-oriented innovative financial mechanisms. Greater consideration should therefore be given to the creation of enabling policy conditions, regulations for appropriate market order, and the provision of necessary safeguards, so as to ensure that innovative financial mechanisms will serve and advance the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Ukraine President Viktor Yanukovych stated: “Global challenges require a global response. The world must develop a new financial and economic system of relations.”

Echoing these sentiments, Mr. Djoghlaif said: “The Strategy for Resource Mobilization of the Convention strives to assist countries in the implementation of the Convention by generating financial resources from multiple sources through multiple channels by multiple mechanisms at multiple levels, including innovations in an optimal structure of mixing these sources, channels, mechanisms and levels. This mixed architecture includes central funds such as the Global Environment Facility at the global level, country-to-country direct assistance, national-level and local-level funding, as well as innovative solutions with the private sector.”

Mr. Djoghlaif added: “To provide innovative financial solutions to global biodiversity challenges, the financial architecture of the Convention adopted in the early 1990s must evolve with the changing global financial and economic environments and respond to the emergence of new and additional challenges and opportunities for biodiversity interventions.”

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