



Convention on
Biological Diversity



INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF FORESTS • 2011



COMMUNIQUÉ

Enhanced GEF-CBD collaboration in support of the Nagoya Outcomes in Asia

Montreal, 12 April 2011 – Discussions about partnerships, funding, and national experiences took centre stage at the Asia Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcomes, held in Da Lat, Viet Nam, on 8 April 2011. The Workshop was organized in collaboration with the Country Support Programme of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Thirty participants from a total of 12 countries, including national focal points to the GEF and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), attended the workshop. Preceded by the GEF Asia Expanded Constituency Workshop, the Workshop included a briefing with civil-society organizations organized by the GEF-NGO network in the region.

Participants welcomed the \$1 million project to support GEF-eligible countries to expedite the process of ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and ensure its early entry into force. The project had been announced on 4 February 2011 by Mrs. Monique Barbut, Chief Executive Officer and Chair of GEF. Participants also highlighted the need for financial support to organize national consultation meetings with key stakeholders, including members of parliament, in order to speed up signature and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol.

“The very success of the Global Environment Facility as the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity is evidenced in every biodiversity project financed as a result of joint efforts of GEF and CBD focal points in response to global guidance and national priorities. Close collaboration between the Convention Secretariat and the GEF Country Support Programme, as demonstrated through this workshop, will be instrumental in translating global targets into reality at the national and regional levels moving forward,” said Mrs. Barbut.

Participants exchanged national experiences related to the 20 Aichi Targets, adopted at the Nagoya BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT in October 2010, and about the different stages and processes of developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Participants cautioned that the Aichi Targets are very ambitious, making them difficult to implement if not matched with financial resources, and suggested the Secretariat develop a list of resources available to support the development and implementation of national planning measures. They also discussed the possibility of a global coordination mechanism for the targets.

“With all the international instruments and policy frameworks adopted as a result of global efforts in the past four years, implementation has become the key word for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, and finance is one key to implementation. To ensure early results, it is imperative to enhance joint leadership and visionary efforts of national focal points of the Convention and the Global Environment Facility at the national and regional levels. This Asia Regional Workshop, as well as the earlier regional workshops in Kinshasa and Kiev, has demonstrated that close collaboration between the Convention and the Global Environment Facility is not only desirable, but also feasible and achievable,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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Emphasizing the important role partnerships and partners will play in achieving the Aichi Targets, participants stressed that all relevant stakeholders should be involved in the process of revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans, which need to be reflected in national budgets.

Civil-society stakeholders also weighed in, with Mr. Faizal Parish, Central Focal Point for the GEF-NGO Network stating: “It is critical that government, private sector and civil society work together to generate sufficient resources to address the challenges identified in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Civil-society organizations in the GEF-NGO Network have announced their commitment to work together with government agencies to update the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and stimulate allocation of resources to support their implementation.”

Participants called for funding to develop country-specific resource-mobilization strategies in support of the national implementation of the Aichi Targets, including assessment of funding needs. They also highlighted the need to exchange funding experiences between countries. In particular, many governments in the region are eager to consider the design of a South-South Biodiversity Cooperation Fund, including its governance, eligibility, donor resources, and operational modalities. Participants noted that India is considering making an initial contribution of US\$1 million to establish such a fund with the GEF.
