



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Two additional African countries sign the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources**

*Montreal, 21 April 2011* – Seychelles and Mali have become the ninth and tenth signatories to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

The signature follows the signing of the Protocol by Colombia, Yemen, Algeria, Brazil, Mexico and Rwanda at the beginning of February. Ecuador and the Central African Republic signed in the first week of April.

On 2 February this year, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon called on all Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to take the steps to expedite the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol, a landmark treaty that links conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity with development.

The Nagoya Protocol was agreed by the 193 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity with the full engagement of their partners at the Aichi-Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in October 2010. It was opened for signature in New York on 2 February 2011.

At the initiative of Japan, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has established a trust fund to support the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol. The GEF has also approved a mid-sized project of two million United States dollars to support the early ratification and entry into force of the Protocol. The project secretariat is now fully operational.

Parliamentarians around the world are being briefed on the Nagoya Protocol. In Botswana, the first such briefing was held with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme, Globe International and the International Parliamentary Union. A series of these briefings will continue throughout the year.

In early April 2011, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Ahmed Djoghlaif, said: “We are gaining momentum on our way to make history by setting a record for the entry into force of this important legal instrument in the service of sustainable development.”

The Nagoya Protocol will enter into force 90 days after the ratification by 50 Parties to the Convention. The United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will organize another signing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 May 2011, in conjunction with the ministerial segment of the nineteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. At this ceremony, an impressive number of countries are expected to sign.

-----