



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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COMMUNIQUÉ

Joint GEF-CBD Initiative to support implementation of the Nagoya Outcomes in South America

Montreal, 2 May 2011 – The South America Regional Workshop on Biodiversity and Finance in Support of the Nagoya Outcomes, held on 30 April 2011 in Cartagena, Colombia, gathered together, for the first time, focal points from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) Operational Focal Points from eight South American countries to discuss the financial challenges involved in implementing the Nagoya Biodiversity Outcomes.

“Funding of the GEF as the CBD financial mechanism is country-driven. National focal points of the GEF and the CBD have, by design, joint and shared responsibility for national implementation of the Convention, and thus are at the forefront of making strategic and optimal use of financial resources allocated from the GEF in response to global priorities identified by the Global Biodiversity Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020 and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising out of their Utilization,” said Mrs. Monique Barbut, GEF CEO and Chair.

Participants to the workshop, part of a series of regional workshops organized by GEF’s Country Support Programme in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, noted that national processes towards signature and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol are at different stages, and that financial assistance is required to enable the involvement and better participation of relevant stakeholders. Participants suggested that there is a need for fast funding to support national consultation workshops and measures in order to expedite national consideration of signing and ratifying the Nagoya Protocol.

Participants examined the ambitious Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Global Biodiversity Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, and agreed that implementation should be based on national capacities and circumstances. It is important to establish or enhance biodiversity information systems or mechanisms to exchange information and experiences on biodiversity and ecosystem services in order to support development of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. GEF funding is needed to support involvement of national and local stakeholders in revising national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Noting that the GEF set aside US\$500,000 per country for enabling activities, participants suggested that GEF also consider the needs of countries that may exceed this indicative ceiling.



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Hence the global biodiversity challenge is now an implementation challenge. A key to implementation is to rebalance finance and biodiversity and reallocate financial resources. Brazilian Minister Ms. Márcia Helena Carvalho Lopes once stated, “No country should be allowed to fall short of the Millennium Development Goals because of a lack of financial resources. Any country’s inability to achieve its national goals is the responsibility of us all.”

“This is also valid for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity whose objectives contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Participants observed that the CBD strategy for resource mobilization has had little or no impact at the national level, due to a lack of similar processes at that level. They reiterated that national strategies and processes do not diminish the responsibilities of developed countries to support developing countries in achieving the Convention’s objectives. South-South cooperation is an important instrument to complement North-South cooperation, and is not intended to replace it. Each country should establish a resource mobilization plan/strategy based on national needs and necessity. In considering the designation of a specific national focal point for resource mobilization, countries should avoid duplicating responsibilities and activities of national focal points regarding the Convention. In monitoring mobilization of financial resources for implementation of the Convention, it is important to have information on the cooperation allocated to civil society and national organizations.

Participants expressed the need to develop a clear understanding about new and additional financial resources and innovative financial mechanisms, and to clarify the meaning of ecosystem services and their application in environmental and economic sectors. Assigning values and indicators to biodiversity and ecosystem services is most challenging. To establish real and concrete offsets from big development projects is another challenge to environmental authorities, due to a lack of understanding about the impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Technical and financial assistance is desirable from the CBD Secretariat and other relevant organizations. Dialogues are important between environmental ministries and finance ministries in order to raise awareness on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Mr. Djoghlaif added, “The successful implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact calls for enhanced partnership between the Convention and its financial mechanism. Therefore it requires a close partnership between the focal points of these two institutions. This is what this regional workshop is all about. It also calls for a robust resources mobilization strategy in support of the Nagoya Package. These are the challenges facing the India Biodiversity Summit to be held in 2012.”
