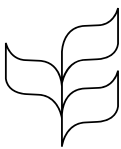




# Gincana 2



COP8 MOP3  
CURITIBA-BRASIL



CBD



UNEP



# Gincana 2



# Table of Contents

**AHMED DJOGLAF**  
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity..... 1

**KOFI ANNAN**  
The Secretary-General of the United Nations ..... 2

**GÉRALD TREMBLAY**  
Maire de Montréal ..... 3

**ACHIM STEINER**  
Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme ..... 3

**H.E. PRESIDENT ZINE EL ABIDINE BEN ALI**  
President of the Republic of Tunisia..... 6

**H.E. JUNICHIRO KOIZUMI**  
Former Prime Minister of Japan..... 9

**H.E. TOMMY ESANG REMENGESAU**  
President of Palau ..... 10

**BARRY GARDINER MP**  
Minister for Biodiversity, Landscape and Rural Affairs, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland..... 11

**AMBASSADOR DUMISANI S. KUMALO**  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa to the United Nations  
Chairman of the Group of 77 for 2006 ..... 13

**MONIQUE BARBUT**  
CEO and chairperson of the Global Environment Facility..... 14

**PASCAL LAMY**  
Director-General of the World Trade Organization ..... 15

**IBRAHIM THIAW**  
Acting Director General, IUCN – The World Conservation Union ..... 16

**BJÖRN STIGSON**  
President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development ..... 18

**KEMAL DERSIS**  
Administrator, United Nations Development Programme ..... 19

**CLAUDIA CARDINALE**  
Ambassadrice de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO..... 21

**MESSAGES ON THE OCCASION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, 22 MAY 2006**

**KOFI ANNAN**  
The Secretary-General of the United Nations ..... 23

**AHMED DJOGLAF**  
Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity..... 23

**ARBA DIALLO**  
Executive Secretary, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification ..... 24

Printed in Canada  
 ISBN: 92-9225-061-2  
 Copyright: Secretariat of the Convention  
 on Biological Diversity 2006.  
 All Rights reserved

**Design and typesetting**  
 Em Dash Design

# New Era of Enhanced Implementation for the Convention is born in Curitiba

It is no exaggeration to say that Curitiba, Brazil, as the host of the eighth meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP 8) and the third Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (MOP 3) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), will forever be remembered as the birthplace of our renewed commitment to urgently sustain and restore Earth's life support systems.

Never in the history of the Convention has the COP attracted such an impressive number of participants. Four thousand delegates representing some 160 Parties, including 1,112 representatives from civil society—the most ever; 340 representatives of indigenous, traditional and local communities, as well as 271 international organizations took part in these landmark meetings. In addition, an unprecedented number of side events, totaling more than 250, were organized.

It is only fitting that the world's most biodiversity-rich country should play host to the largest ever gathering of biodiversity experts. And as Curitiba is the first provincial city in the history of the Rio Agreement to host a Conference of the Parties meeting, it is more than appropriate that this vibrant city should serve as the setting for a series of pivotal firsts for the Convention, in addition to it being my first meeting of the Conference of the Parties as your Executive Secretary.

For the first time in the Convention's history, the High Level Segment included an interactive dialogue, comprising 122 Ministers and Heads of Delegation, which greatly helped to facilitate the adoption of 30 major decisions, including an agreement on the negotiating framework and firm timeframe to finalize, by 2010, the negotiation on an international regime for access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources.

Curitiba also represented the first time that, together with our gracious host, the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, a President and two Vice Presidents attended a COP meeting. Because some of the greatest treasures remaining on the planet are the fragile ecosystems of islands, I am very pleased with the Micronesia Challenge initiative that was launched at COP 8 by the President of Palau and the Vice President of Micronesia. This initiative aims to place 30% of the marine areas and 20% of the forest across Micronesia under envi-



ronmental protection. I call on other leaders of the world to support the Global Island Partnership.

I also applaud the initiative taken by the 22 female ministers who attended COP 8 for their enterprise in establishing a Ministerial Women and Biodiversity Network. Thank you very much for this unique and important accomplishment.

History was also made at Curitiba in the form of a new alliance of some of the world's top research centres and agencies specializing in biodiversity, whose combined financial resources represent some half a billion USD a year. This agreement will help boost developing countries' scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity through innovative education and training initiatives.

Other important firsts recorded at the Curitiba meetings include:

- The largest number of representatives from civil society to ever attend a COP/MOP meeting, with traditional and local communities taking their rightful place as distinct stakeholders.

- The Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO) addressed your meeting through videoconferencing, and his deputy attended in person.

- The World Conservation Monitoring Centre is offering its services as a centre of excellence for training and capacity-building during this new era of enhanced implementation of your Convention.

- Ministers offered donations to the Convention's Museum of Nature and Culture; and,

- 1,500 children participated in forming the Convention's logo as a beautiful and imaginative gift to COP 8.

I especially want to pay tribute to those whose presence and contributions greatly helped to make these meetings such a success. First and foremost to our host, the government and the people of the Federative Republic of Brazil; to President Silva, for his unique contribution to the success of the Curitiba meetings; to Brazil's Minis-



try of Foreign Affairs and other agencies that were involved; and in particular to a wonderful and unique flower of the Amazon forest, the President of COP 8 and Brazil's Minister of Environment, Ms. Marina Silva. I must also make a special mention of the local authorities, so ably represented by the Governor of the State of Paraná, Mr. Roberto Requiao, and the Mayor of Curitiba, Mr. Carlos Alberto Richa. Never in the history of the Rio Conventions have local authorities been so involved in the preparation and proceedings of an intergovernmental meeting.

To all of you, we say straight from our hearts, Obrigado.

We must also honour those whose commitment and deep concern for the environment is absolutely essential to the well-being of our planet, the world's youth and children. In her opening address to the COP 8 meeting, Claudia Buer, on behalf of the Kids of the Forests, suggested that the children of the world will judge the results of our meeting. Another youth representative, the 16-year old daughter of our President, Minister Silva, told her mother how proud she was to attend our meeting and how committed she is spreading the message of a healthier environment to her friends.

If indeed what we do to the environment today is to be judged by the youth and children of the world, then we must take concrete action now and not merely deal in promises. An historic step was taken in this regard with the announcement that Governor Requiao will help offset the environmental impact of the Curitiba meetings by planting, before the end of this year, 2,000 trees for each participant attending these meetings. This means that eight million trees will be planted in the state of Paraná. In addition, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder of the Green Belt Movement, Ms. Wangari Maathai, has joined forces with us in a long-term partnership to help offset the environmental impacts of your secretariat processes by planting trees in Africa.

Hopefully these actions, together with the accomplishments achieved at COP 8/MOP 3, will make it easier for us to look our children in the eye when they ask us what we are doing to help preserve our planet.

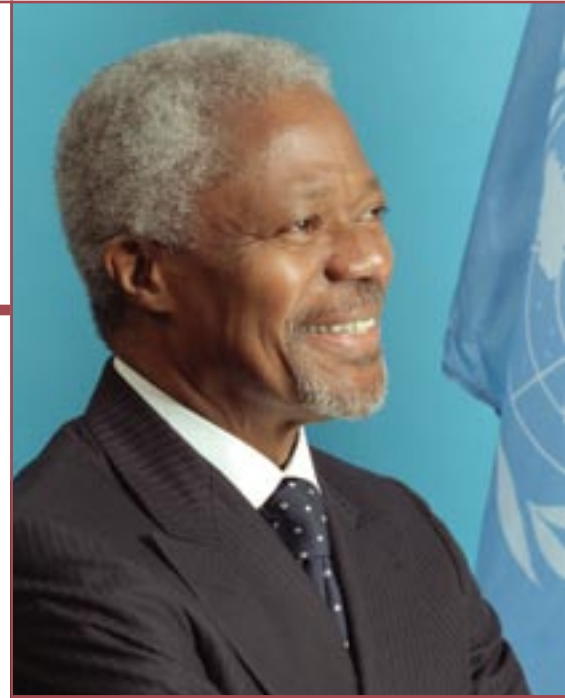
I can assure you that I felt uniquely privileged, and very moved, to play a role in this great celebration of biodiversity. I felt that I was a part of history in the making. The COP 8/MOP 3 meetings will be remembered by our children and Claudia's generation as having great and lasting importance. And the city of Curitiba will forever be widely known as the birthplace of a new and enhanced phase of implementation for the Convention on Biological Diversity, and for all life on Earth. ♡

## There is still time to reverse course

Climate change has profound implications for our planet's rich biological diversity and for virtually every aspect of human well-being, from jobs and health to growth and security. The time has come to stop treating it as a narrow, environmental concern, and instead to recognize its all-encompassing nature. To confront this threat, we must reform the way we, as a global society, live and do business.

As we know from the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, human activities have dramatically altered ecosystems in recent decades, degrading the vital services they provide and putting a tremendous strain on the planet's ability to sustain future generations. Yet the study also concluded that the biodiversity target adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg—to significantly reduce the loss of ecosystems, species and habitats by 2010—remains achievable.

However, that will require unprecedented additional efforts, at all levels, to mitigate and adapt to climate change while strengthening the conservation of biodiversity. I am therefore pleased to note that the observance of the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2007 will focus on the links between climate change and biodiversity, and that 2007 will also be the International Polar Year, which is being co-sponsored by the UN system's World Meteorological Organization. The next meeting of the Con-



ference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Germany in 2008, will be another opportunity to mobilize more concerted action.

I have recommended to the General Assembly that the biodiversity target be incorporated into the set of targets used to follow up on the Millennium Declaration. After all, poverty and biodiversity are intimately linked: the poor depend on biodiversity for food, fuel, shelter, medicines and livelihoods. Without the sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of its benefits, we will not achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Fortunately, even though the world continues to experience unprecedented biodiversity loss, there is still time to reverse course. I look forward to working with all partners to protect the foundations of life on earth for the benefit of present and future generations. ♡





Gérald Tremblay, *Maire de Montréal*

## Une nouvelle ère de coopération entre la Ville et le Secrétariat

Quelques jours après son entrée en fonction à titre de Secrétaire Exécutif de la Convention sur la biodiversité biologique, au début de l'année 2006, j'ai eu le grand plaisir de rencontrer le Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaïf. Ce premier entretien, qui coïncidait avec le dixième anniversaire de l'installation du Secrétariat à Montréal, a ouvert la voie à une nouvelle ère de coopération entre la Ville et le Secrétariat.

C'est ainsi que pour souligner l'Année internationale des déserts et de la désertification nous présentons conjointement une exposition au Biodôme de Montréal. Pour célébrer dignement la Journée internationale de la biodiversité, nous avons également annoncé la création d'un mécanisme inédit de collaboration de la communauté scienti-

fique du Canada, notamment celle de Montréal, à la mise en œuvre de la Convention sur la biodiversité. La présence des Muséums nature de Montréal à la dernière réunion londonienne du Consortium d'institutions scientifiques, institutions qui ont pour mandat de sensibiliser le public à l'importance de la biodiversité, est un autre témoignage du rapprochement opéré récemment.

Je profite de l'occasion pour me réjouir de l'initiative qui prend forme à l'effet de mobiliser les communes, les villes et les autorités locales en appui aux objectifs de la Convention. La Ville de Montréal est bien déterminée à y apporter son concours. La destruction de la biodiversité de notre planète constitue une véritable catastrophe planétaire. Les Chefs d'État et de gou-

vernement nous invitent, d'ici 2010, à poser des gestes significatifs tant au niveau global, national que régional pour freiner le mouvement. Nous ne pouvons tout simplement pas nous permettre de faire la sourde oreille.

Comme le disait Alphonse Desjardins, le fondateur du mouvement coopératif québécois « La tâche est grande. Les efforts d'un seul ne sauraient suffire. ». C'est pourquoi la Ville de Montréal s'engage, à l'avenir, à ne ménager aucun effort pour soutenir le travail du Dr Djoghlaïf et de son équipe. Nous le savons : la protection de la biodiversité représente un enjeu vital non seulement pour le Canada mais pour le reste du monde et, en particulier, pour les pays les plus pauvres. Travaillons ensemble pour la biodiversité !

Achim Steiner, *Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme*

## Our Economies Must Be Built On Environmental Care

Money may make the world go round. But we know what makes a significant amount of that money is natural capital—the goods and services provided by nature.

We also know from reports like the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that a great deal of this capital is being run down—we are in the red. This is not a recipe for long lasting prosperity in either the developing or developed countries.

It is clear that a better balance is needed that capitalizes on the benefits of trade liberalization with the absolute necessity of maintaining and re-investing in the global natural resource base—in other words, developing trade that is not extractive in nature but sustainable for current and future generations.

This is a challenge, but not an issue, in my book. For environmental policy—far from being a brake on trade—is actually emerging as a powerful new force generating new kinds of trading opportunities.

### UNEP is a Trade Organization

Let me first trigger a few wry smiles by stating clearly that I head up a trade organization.

Most, if not all, of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) linked with UNEP and the global sustainable development agenda have significant trade dimensions.

It is not by chance that one of the important ones dealing with biodiversity is known as the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species. And take the chemicals conventions—the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, the Basel Convention on hazardous waste, the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions on chemicals—we are dealing with environment, but also very much with trade.

The Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change is taking the notion of trade as a powerful force for sustainable development into new realms. Kyoto's provisions—a first step towards the significant, more-than-60-percent reduction in greenhouse gases needed—include Joint Implementation, Emissions Trading and the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

It is an environmental treaty. But at its heart are trade-based, flexible mechanisms.

Kyoto is also triggering new flows of funds from developed to developing coun-



tries—you may like to call them Aid for Trade in the broadest sense. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)—whose annual conference will be held at UNEP's headquarters in Nairobi in



November-- estimates that the CDM alone could generate some \$100 billion of funds for developing countries.

Kyoto is also helping to drive investment and trade in new and renewable technologies like wind, solar power and biomass fuels. In 1995 global wind power stood at 4,800 MW. It has since increased twelve-fold to reach over 59,000 MW at the end of 2005.

The international market is expected to have an annual turnover in 2006 of more than € 13 billion, with an estimated 150,000 people employed around the world. The latest outlook of the Global Wind Energy Council estimates that over a third of the globe's electricity could be generated by wind by 2050.

This is not just benefiting the exporting economies of the developed world. It can and will benefit the lives and livelihoods of billions in the developing world currently without access to electricity.

Poverty is not only a challenge to the environment and sustainable development it is an obstacle to trade. So environmental treaties like Kyoto can, by bringing development and wealth to the poor, create billions of new consumers in continents like Africa, Asia and Latin America who can genuinely participate in the global market place.

### **UNEP is Pro-Subsidies**

You may have smiled at the idea of UNEP being a trade organization. But to say we are pro-subsidy might leave one reaching for the smelling salts. But, well thought out and well targeted financial support can help the environment and economies.

The Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol has, since its inception 15 years ago, paid close to \$2 billion to developing countries to switch from ozone damaging chemicals and production to more environment-friendly ones.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF), just replenished to the tune of more than \$3 billion by developed countries, is playing its part in catalyzing not only environmental, but also cleaner technological and economic improvements.

GEF funded projects, for example, are helping to promote clean energy through wind and solar power mapping which in turn is stimulating renewable investments in the developing world.

Fisheries, one of the most contentious areas of environmentally-damaging trade, are also benefiting. A new GEF project, where shrimp fishermen in developing countries are testing new nets and trawls, is reducing the damage of by-catch by up to 70 per cent in some cases.

This is good news for people living in coastal communities: this is good news for the environ-

ment and for the local and global economy—it is sustainable development in action.

So UNEP is pro-trade when it balances all the costs and benefits and we are pro-positive subsidies that make social, environmental and economic sense.

Sadly, we are all aware that significant amounts of trade and far too many subsidies promote extraction rather than sustainable management—and are skewed in favour of short term profits with the benefits confined to narrow sectors of our global society.

The true value of many of the nature-based goods and services we exploit—from forests to genetic resources—is also under priced and those who directly manage or conserve them are far from fully recompensed for what their communities provide.

As I write, the Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations remain suspended with no firm date when they will resume and no firm conviction that a resumption will bring a happy ending. But this cannot be an alibi for inaction on the broad question of making trade liberalization work for sustainable development.—the world is still turning, even if the talks are not.

### **Opportunities and Challenges**

*Certification*—A few months ago the bulk carrier 'Glory' landed over 130 cubic metres of logs from Central Africa in Europe destined for traders and door manufacturers in Switzerland.

It was the first consignment of timber from that region covered by the Forest Stewardship Council's certification scheme following the issuing of certificates in December last year.

The wood came from the Kabo concession—a 1.3 million hectare lowland tropical rainforest on the Congo-Cameroon-Central Africa Republic border. Over the past decade some 70 million hectares of forest in over 70 countries have been certified.

Certification is now being extended to places where timber is used for structures including housing schemes, events infrastructure like those for the London Olympics, and maybe even airports.

We need to extend certification to ever more forests and develop the capacity of more developing countries to take part.

Fisheries management offers similar benefits and challenges. The Marine Stewardship Council certifies and eco-labels well-managed fisheries. However, only a relatively small number of fisheries are involved. With a few notable exceptions—one thinks of South Africa's hake fishery—the vast majority are in developed countries.

How can we broaden such schemes not only in the area of fisheries but to other areas of the global, natural-resource base and do it in such a way that we do not exclude devel-

oping countries by establishing "eco-barriers or green tariffs"?

### **Non Financial Reports**

I recently attended the Conference on Sustainability and Reporting organized by the Global Reporting Initiative—a UNEP collaborating centre. There has been tremendous growth, especially in developed countries, in the reporting of large corporations' social, environmental and corporate responsibility performance.

Adopting green standards like the International Standards Organization's ISO 14000 and new ones like the ISO 26000 on sustainability management, are also growth areas.

It is clear that many multinationals and transnationals are keen to factor sustainability into their operations. Shareholders, investors and consumers are increasingly demanding such information which in turn has investment and trade implications. How can we assist in extending these reporting guidelines and sustainability standards to capture the true costs and benefits of trade—especially in the developing countries?

We also need to urgently examine how such measures like certification, reporting and standards can be more easily and reasonably taken up by small and medium sized enterprises regionally and globally.

Other areas that can help deliver sustainable trade include Green Procurement--in which governments and companies source goods and services that meet some level of sustainability.

This has something to do with certification, labeling, non financial reporting and capacity building for developing countries—it also has a lot to do with awareness-raising among consumers and those in purchasing departments.

### **Better Capturing the True Costs of Global Trade**

It was once normal practice to externalize the costs of production. A chemical factory could get rid of its waste on the cheap by pumping it into a river. The atmosphere was a dustbin where we could release greenhouse gases for free.

Under the polluter-pays principle, this has and is changing. Perhaps we need to refine the concept and extend it to its logical conclusion.

### **Payments for Ecosystem Services**

Let's take one example—climate change and tropical forests. Some eminent economists argue that the carbon sequestration value alone of these forests may be worth tens if not hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

Currently the countries and communities whose forests provide this service are paid zero for the pollution they remove and the economi-

cally damaging climate change they avert.

In Costa Rica, hydro-electric companies pay communities upstream not to cut down trees. It makes economic sense because deforestation destabilizes the soil and can trigger the silting up of dams. So why do we not pay communities in the tropics for maintaining forests and the ecosystem services they provide in terms of carbon removal?

Could we extend payment for ecosystem services further, or develop flexible trade-related mechanisms—like those developed for Kyoto—further to more sustainably manage other natural resources? Could damage to nature or natural capital in Europe or the United States be offset by backing projects in the developing world that conserve water basins, coral and mangrove forests or genetic and biologically rich hotspots? Can we trade ecosystem services like we now trade carbon and if so how might that work?

In some areas the questions have almost been answered. One bright light that shone from the recent WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong was in the area of fisheries subsidies.

Here the mutually supportive nature of trade and environment policies really came through.

We should not—indeed cannot—let this momentum slow and would encourage all concerned to work on the next steps needed to deliver sustainable fisheries for all.

Amongst the points in the Hong-Kong declaration were those setting out a path that will allow definitions of “overcapacity and overfishing”—criteria that can be used for prohibiting subsidies.

Ladies and gentlemen, the challenges of making international trade work sustainably for everyone is a key goal of the WTO and is a key goal for UNEP.

It is a challenging but also exciting subject that goes to the heart of the world we have inherited in the early 21st Century.

Together, and in partnership with private business and civil society, I believe we can find the answers if we can find the political will, creative ideas, economic instruments, respect for nature and common humanity that unites us all.

Globalization and trade liberalization have polarized public opinion and generated emotive if not colourful language and entrenched positions. Free trade has been characterized as a free for all—one in which short term profits slash and burn and bulldoze their way through other concerns, be they social or environmental. To counter this some people have talked about giving globalization a ‘human face’.

But what we really need is ‘intelligent’ rather than benevolent globalization—one that produces sustainable markets through sustainable trade in the certain knowledge



that this is where long lasting profits and genuine livelihoods will be made.

There is cause for optimism. I mentioned earlier that I was responsible for a trade organization. Well there are now increasing numbers of finance ministers who are convinced they hold an environmental portfolio.

I think Gordon Brown, the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, summed it up best just before the G8 in Gleneagles.

“More than sixty years ago in 1944, the economist John Maynard Keynes laid down what he believed were the foundations of

economic policy—that it was for government to ensure the twin objectives of high and stable levels of growth and employment.

“Today we know that there is a third objective on which our economies must be built—and that is environmental care.

“If our economies are to flourish, if poverty is to be banished, and if the well-being of the world’s people enhanced—not just in this generation but in succeeding generations—we must make sure we take care of the natural environment and resources on which our economic activity depends”. ❧

# For the preservation of life on Earth: A call for a concerted and solidarity-based world governance

*Biodiversity is in danger, and our generation, unlike the previous generations, is called on to decide on the fate of life on Earth. In fact, the ecosystem having been deeply modified and considerably degraded, the continuous damage to biodiversity gives rise to serious worries, as a result of the massive extinctions of species. Another source of worry is that this phenomenon is so rapid and large-scale that natural compensations cannot follow the same pace. This led Hubert Reeves to say « Humanity is the cause of this massive extinction; it could also be its victim ».*

*The problem is, therefore, no longer to selectively safeguard rare species threatened with disappearance. Its scope has changed, and it threatens life on Earth. In this regard, the international community is vested with the responsibility to work for the preservation and development of natural resources, and for the achievement of balance between a sound environment and sustainable development.*

The deterioration of living conditions in many countries, the proliferation of pollution in pernicious forms, the scarcity of natural resources, the shrinkage of agricultural lands in the face of rampant urbanization, desertification, the perverse effects of climatic changes, the damages inflicted on the ozone layer, in addition to the challenges of globalization and the ferocity of economic and commercial competition, all make it imperative to review development policies for the preservation of natural resources.

Cries of alarm are indeed continuously launched, and preservation mechanisms are being implemented. Following the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002 emphasized the necessity for a global commitment to join efforts in order to achieve a harmonious and sustainable development, through the elimination of poverty, the adaptation of consumption and production, and the protection and management of natural resources. The Earth Charter (2006) represents a synthesis of the values, principles and aspirations universally recognized and shared by an increasing number of women and men all over the world. These principles were confirmed in September 2005 by the World Pact for Sustainable Development, initiated by Mr. Kofi Annan in July 2000, aiming at bringing enterprises, bodies, the world of business, and civil society around the universal principles related to human rights, labor standards and the environment.

Ever since, action has been undertaken to harmonize environment policies; and in New

York, the 191 member states of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Goals to be achieved by 2015.

But what has really been concretized? In the way they manage biodiversity in their countries, do all sovereign states have the means to remedy the threats and their multiform interactions that manifest themselves beyond borders? Have they all developed the same sense of responsibility in the face of ecological dangers, and embraced the same conviction that preserving biodiversity requires reinforcing solidarity among all? The results, mitigated by the concrete actions that have followed the great international proclamations, leave no doubt as to the necessity to establish an active solidarity to face the challenges with which humanity is confronted.

## **I. In Tunisia, a development in the service of Man and quality of life.**

Tunisia, which has played an active part in the materialization of the principles enunciated by the Rio Earth Summit and all other relevant important international meetings, as well as in the elaboration of the relevant specific conventions, has strongly been engaged in a process of sustainable development based on the constant search for a fair balance between economic growth, social justice and environment preservation. Tunisia devotes annually 1.2 % of its GDP for the implementation of projects and programs in



the field of the environment, considering the implementation of international conventions on the environment, particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity and the National Agenda 21, a credo to guarantee the right to a decent life and a sound environment.

In this context, Tunisia has identified regional indicators for the improvement of living conditions, subdivided into 21 environmental indicators, 14 social indicators and 7 economic indicators permitting assessment of living conditions at the regional level. These conditions serve as tools for regional planning and for identifying priority programs and projects. Sector-based approaches for integrating the environment dimension within the development process have been introduced within the national program of action.

- A strategy for the preservation of biological resources has been established, involving the creation of the national bank of





genes and 12 specialized botanic gardens in order to enhance the value and develop the natural genetic potential.

- The protection of ecosystems and of marine and coastal environment has been reinforced through the identification of protected areas covering 2.5% of the total surface area of the country, many of which are listed as natural sites of international interest (Ichkeul Lake, Zembra & Zembretta Park ...).
- The promotion of the forest and pastoral sector and the fight against sand dunes encroachment, launched in 2002, have allowed reforested areas to develop, and to reach a rate of growth of 12.3 % in 2005, with an annual increase of 0.2 %. A national program has been launched since 1994 for the development of green areas in the urban milieu, bringing up the ratio of green areas from 4.4 sq.m per inhabitant in 1994 to 13 sq.m per inhabitant in 2005.
- A decennial strategy for the preservation of waters and soils was launched in 2002. It aims to achieve the socio-economic development of the agricultural sector, through improving the fertility of soils, refilling sheets of water, creating jobs, and improving the performance of the agricultural sector. These programs have contributed to mobilizing 88% of the usable hydric potential.
- A national strategy has been set up for the rational use of energy and the development of clean and renewable energies. Moreover, though an inventory of the emissions of gases with greenhouse effect (1994–1997) revealed that the emissions do not exceed 2.7 tons CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per inhabitant, and that they are largely below the international averages, set at 4 tons CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent per inhabitant, projects for the reduction of the emissions of these gases and the attenuation of methane have been implemented as part of the Clean Development Mechanisms.
- Regarding the management of solid waste, a specialized institution was established in 2005, with a view to reducing waste and setting up a system of collection, sorting and enhanced efficiency. In the field of purification, the investments undertaken have enlarged the public network and created new generations of purification stations. The rate of connection to the network currently amounts to 86%.

- Having joined the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in 1995, Tunisia has established a national action plan (1998) that constitutes the federative framework for the strategies, programs and projects of preservation and enhancement of natural resources in rural areas. Several projects are being implemented, aiming at achieving a better use of lands and fighting all forms of degradation, including soil salinization and erosion. In June 2006, during the conference on the future of arid lands, the Tunisian experience was valued by more than 300 researchers from all over the world who adopted the Tunis Declaration for the purpose of promoting the sustainable development of arid lands.

In perfect harmony with the Millennium Development Goals, set by a UN General Assembly resolution adopted in September 2000, Tunisia has endeavored to combat poverty through the establishment of a set of economic and social policies, and the dissemination of the culture of solidarity on a wide scale. The creation of the National Solidarity Fund (1993) has made it possible to bring down the poverty rate from 12.9% in 1980 to 4.2% in 2000, benefiting some 1,327 disadvantaged areas, and more than 10% of the national population, through the construction of nearly 31,000 houses and 122 healthcare centers, and the creation of 60,000 small individual projects. Besides, the Fund has made it possible to create 18,000 jobs, to provide electricity and drinking water to 64,000 households, to build and improve 20,000 houses, to develop 4,000 kilometres of roads, to build 140 schools, and to implement 33 purification and anti-desertification projects. This anti-poverty system has, in fact, implemented programs of action covering the needs in terms of housing, hygiene, healthcare, education, employment and protection of the environment.

The joining of the efforts of the State, the private sector, and civil society with a vast upsurge of solidarity has, in fact, enhanced the policy of conciliation of the requirements of environment protection, social development, biodiversity preservation, and management and rational use of the available natural resources. This has improved living conditions in all regions and for all social categories.

Established and implemented as part of a participatory approach, these programs have involved all the components of society as well as the private sector in the implementation of environmental projects. The establishment of incentives for the creation of micro-enterprises in this field has encouraged the creation of nearly 3,200 permanent jobs.

## **II. Tunisia's call for a concerted and solidarity-based governance**

Based on the success of its national experience, and convinced of the necessity to establish new mechanisms of cooperation establishing solidarity between industrialized nations and developing countries, in 1998 Tunisia proposed the establishment of a World Solidarity Fund. This avant-garde humanitarian initiative, which was met with wide international support, was adopted during the 57th session of the UN General Assembly, for the purpose of reducing the excessive disparities existing between peoples, consolidating ties between them, and mitigating poverty in the world. The needs of certain countries, especially in the African continent, are, in fact, huge. These countries face numerous problems with heavy consequences, such as erosion, damage of the vegetal cover, deforestation, desert encroachment, soil salinization, degradation of natural reserves, damages to habitats and protected zones, the erosion of the coasts, and the disappearance of many species that constitute the wealth of the fauna and flora, in addition to wars and AIDS.

Today, though the results of the actions conducted by states and by the various institutions concerned with the preservation and management of biodiversity constitute a considerable gain, the international institutions (UN, IMF, WTO, OECD, WB, WHO, UNESCO, FAO, etc.) are called on to bring further coherence and coordination to their efforts. Taking into consideration the environmental variable in development strategies necessitates a closer collaboration.

In this regard, I reiterate to the international community the necessity to give a concrete content to the principle of collective responsibility, by establishing a true partnership among all countries, particularly between the North and the South, through the adoption and implementation of a world strategy for the protection of life on Earth. In fact, to avoid the risks of irreversible rift, the preservation of life in all its forms makes it urgent to organize a global alliance, through a reinforced international solidarity. It is, therefore, incumbent upon each one, as part of a concerted plan and an equitable sharing of tasks, to assume his/her responsibilities for the materialization of the legitimate aspirations of peoples to life.

I, therefore, call for assuming responsibility for the integration of the concerns for preserving biodiversity. I also launch an urgent call to governments, decision-makers, researchers, educators and citizens for the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity. It is on our commitment to implement this strategy that will depend our common



Gift by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, to the Convention on Biodiversity "Solidarity for a sustainable biodiversity" A mosaic reflecting the biological wealth of ancient Tunisia. PLACE AND DATE: El Jem; in the third century A.D.—Tunisia. THE ORIGINAL: Bardo National Museum—Tunisia.

destiny, for the better...otherwise, for the worse.

This sound management, or the good governance of biodiversity, rests on the international community's adoption of a global action plan and coherent national agendas. This implies the enhancement of international cooperation, a closer coordination of efforts, and an increased assistance to developing countries in terms of financial, informational and technical means, in order to meet the needs of education, training, sensitization and management of plans and agendas for biodiversity preservation.

Such an approach would help identify, through appropriate studies, the problems of the concerned countries, and contribute to the adoption of adequate solutions, taking into consideration the obligations pro-

vided for by the Convention on Biodiversity and the specificities of each country and each region. The generalization and use of these studies, and the creation of national and international databanks on terrestrial, marine, animal and vegetal biodiversity, are fundamental tools for a closer and more efficient coordination of efforts. The experience acquired during these past years, and the already existing structures, could be used to confer more efficiency on the actions, programs and funds. Is not collaborative work, isn't it specific to the knowledge society?

Our concept of international solidarity is indeed part of a comprehensive and integrative approach that goes beyond the protection of nature to encompass economic interests and social stakes, and is based, on

and society, between competition and solidarity, between the short term and the long term, between Man and nature, between unity and diversity ... In a nutshell, it is a fresh vision of the world, a new code of environmental morality, new indicators of performance.

Finally, for humanity to remain in harmony with nature, I call for a concerted and solidarity-based world governance, and I launch an urgent appeal to governments and citizens of the world for the preservation of biodiversity, for a better management and a better allocation of resources, as well as for more efficient actions. To preserve our Earth is identity, to preserve humanity's cultural and civilisational heritage, to preserve life on Earth: Together, Let's act for life. ❖

a much more systemic vision of the world. The implementation of a durable policy should take into consideration the compatibility of the economic, sociological and ecological dimensions, if we want to the aspirations of the peoples to sustainable development, and also to peace.

In this perspective, an international ecological network shall be established. The originality of this proposal based on networking and consultation is to provide the conditions for a comprehensive vision and for the adjustment of positions toward a single objective. Moreover, the commitment of the concerned parties to respect rules and decisions, and their participation in all the stages of this process, from the identification of risks to the choice of actions, will guarantee the perpetuation of this approach. This true collaboration, with a high added value, would also allow economies of scale, to curb "butterfly" effects, to ensure a better distribution of costs, to harmonize the various policies, and to make best use of capacities.

Only a global and responsible reflection would enable balances between the global and the local, between tradition and innovation, between the economic and the ethical, between the individual

## Living with Nature

I would like to congratulate Brazil on the success of the COP8 and the Ministerial Meeting held in Curitiba this March, and express my sincere appreciation to the people of Curitiba, the City of Curitiba, the Government of Parana and the Government of Brazil for their valuable contributions. The meetings proved to be a very important opportunity to generate a common understanding that more efforts are needed to improve the present state of biodiversity, which is deteriorating globally at a rapid pace.

Japan is an archipelago that stretches from north to south, covering a number of climate zones, from a sub-polar zone with drift ice to a sub-tropical zone with coral reefs. It is also blessed with four clearly dis-

tinguished seasons, as a result of which it enjoys rich biodiversity. I often hear foreign visitors to Japan commending the beauty of Japan's natural landscape, and I am sure that there are a good number of people around the world who love Japanese food. These attractive features—beautiful land and seascapes, as well as the fruits of the sea and the mountains—are gifts granted by the rich biodiversity of our land.

Lately, however, our rich biodiversity is in crisis. Beautiful coast lines where sea turtles used to lay eggs are being lost, and indigenous fish species such as Nigoro Funa, a close relative of crucian carp, and Moroko, a kind of minnow, are being jeopardized by invasive species such as black bass. Faced with such crises, our govern-



ment is sparing no effort to conserve our biodiversity. In March 2002 we established the New National Biodiversity Strategy, which aims to achieve a society "Living with Nature." Under this plan, we have created new systems to restore the lost nature and to exterminate alien species or restrict their introduction.

Japan has greatly benefited not only from our own biodiversity but also from the world's biodiversity, as we are a country that depends largely on imported resources such as food and timber. We have therefore been actively contributing to conserving global biodiversity as well. We have been providing support to conserve the precious biodiversity of Borneo Island, Malaysia, represented by endangered species such as orangutan, by utilizing the experience and expertise we have acquired through managing the national parks and wildlife in our country. Also, as rising seawater temperatures are worsening the conditions of coral reefs around the world, the Japanese government is actively supporting the activities of the International Coral Reef Initiative or ICRI, an international framework to conserve coral reefs. As one of the host countries of its secretariat, we have established facilities to monitor the conditions of coral reefs in the Pacific Ocean.

Today, the world is working to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target, which aims at a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. Cooperation among all contracting parties to the Convention is essential to achieve this goal. Our country is determined to apply what we have learned through our experience and our expertise to continue to play a leading role in attaining the goal, "Living with Nature." ♪





H.E. Tommy Esang Remengesau, *President of Palau*



# The Micronesia Challenge: A Pacific Island Commitment to Conservation and Livelihoods in Micronesia

In the largest ocean in the world, the Pacific, Micronesia occupies a vast seascape approximately 6.7 million km<sup>2</sup>, nearly the size of the United States. As a region it contains some of the Earth's richest variety of plant and animal life—high levels of endemism, more than 60 threatened species, over 10% of the world's total reef area and 462 coral species, which represents approximately 59% of Mother Earth's total recorded corals. One of our planet's 29 coral reef hot spots is also found in Micronesia.

Due to a unique combination of geographic isolation, biological diversity, and a vibrant cultural history, these islands are exemplary microcosms for conservation. In these Pacific paradises, the highly diverse marine and terrestrial resources serve as the natural capital for the local people, who have a strong tradition as stewards of their lands and waters.

Unfortunately, the very features that make these northern Pacific islands unique also

make them especially vulnerable to environmental threats, such as deforestation, rapid economic development, climate change and the invasion of foreign species. Half of the species in the world that have become extinct have been island species. Without immediate action, Micronesia's islands face continued damage to species, biodiversity local livelihoods and the Micronesia way of life.

### Formulating the Challenge

Recognizing the growing threats to Micronesia's natural resources, the President of the Republic of Palau, Tommy F. Remengesau, Jr., called on his peers in November 2005, to join him in a Micronesia Challenge which aims to effectively conserve 30% of near shore marine resources and 20% of forest resources by 2020. This ambitious goal far exceeds current goals set by the international community which calls for countries to conserve 10% of marine and terrestri-

al resources by 2010. The challenge also emphasizes the value of working collectively across Micronesia to confront, on a regional basis, the common environmental and sustainable development issues.

In taking on the Challenge, the Micronesian leadership was hopeful that their efforts would serve as a global model for island conservation while safeguarding some of the world's rich Biodiversity. The Challenge nations—Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Territory of Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands—represent nearly 5% of the marine area of the Pacific Ocean and 7% of its coastlines. Once implemented, the Challenge will collectively protect marine area equal to the coastline of the Gulf of Mexico.

### An International Declaration

At the Eighth Conference of the Parties (COPS) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, leaders from Micronesia's island nations joined together to announce the Micronesia Challenge. President Remengesau the first president to ever attend a COP under the CBD, hosted the event and emphasized the need for global and regional partnerships to strengthen Micronesians' capacity to meet conservation commitments. Inspired by its Micronesian counterparts in the Pacific, the Caribbean nation of Grenada also pledged to protect its islands, setting a goal of putting 25% of near-shore marine and 25% of terrestrial resources under effective conservation by 2020. To help meet these goals, the CBD is expected to adopt a Programme of Work that will establish guidance for island nations and nations with islands for integrated conservation and management of their vital natural resources.

### Funding Support

In support of the Micronesia Challenge, The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International have each committed \$3 million towards conservation across Micronesia. The \$6 million pledge is designed to generate matching funds from other financing sources including donor countries and the Global Environment Facility. The match, when fulfilled will result in a total of \$18 million directed to the sustainable financing of protected areas and conservation across Micronesia.





### **A Cornerstone of the Global Island Partnership**

The Micronesia Challenge was also part of a larger commitment that evening by a broad range of Governments and institutions to a Global Island Partnership - a partnership that will serve as a powerful platform to advance conservation and sustainable livelihoods among island countries and countries with islands. Momentum for this initiative has grown since the Mauritius International Meeting on the Sustainable Development of SIDS at which President Michel of the Seychelles and the President of Palau first called for the Global Island Partnership in January 2005. As a growing network of political leaders, organizations, agencies and donors, the Partnership has grown spontaneously over the last two years without a formal structure or official status.

During the High Level Event at COP8, support for the Global Island Partnership was unanimous. It became clear that this combination of political will with technical and financial support from local to global organizations are essential ingredients to advancing the implementation of global agreements such as the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity. Those countries and organizations that stepped forward are now actively working on ideas and mechanisms to replicate this success. Their success may well impact and nature of the world's response to environmental issues at both the regional and international levels.

### **THE MICRONESIA CHALLENGE**

*We, the Chief Executives and Heads of Government of Micronesia, in order.*

*To sustain our unique island biodiversity:*

*To ensure a healthy future for our island people,*

*To protect our unique island cultures;*

*To guard the foundations of our future development, our pristine island environments:*

*To sustain the livelihoods of our island communities; and*

*To contribute to global targets set out in the Millennium Development Goals, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the relevant Programmes of Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

*Agree to undertake an expanded commitment to preserve our marine and terrestrial environments through: Effectively conserving at least 30% of the near-shore marine and 20% of the forest resources across Micronesia by 2020. ♡*

# **Integrating the private sector in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity**

**G**overnments alone cannot achieve our biodiversity commitments. All sectors of society must play their part. It is vital that business engages both to minimize their ecological-footprint and to do what they can to boost the natural environment.

Business can have a negative impact on biodiversity in three ways. The first is through direct effects, such as land clearance for new sites or operations which can degrade or remove habitats altogether. The second is via the indirect impacts through the commodities and other raw materials that business sell, source or use as part of their supply chains. Finally, businesses can impact on biodiversity through third parties and contractors involved in their business operations, including through investment.

A number of businesses in key sectors now realize there is a solid business case for doing more to alleviate these negative impacts on biodiversity. The good news is that businesses are beginning to see that this is not a vague altruism. It makes hard-nosed business sense.

The business case for biodiversity is different for each organisation. One example which is relevant to all businesses is the role of biodiversity in acquiring the resource they need to operate. This can either be compa-

nies which process raw materials directly, or companies that rely on the availability of a range of products manufactured from those raw materials. And when delivery of these resources is threatened or stopped, businesses will suffer.

But good businesses know that the environment is not just the provider of the raw materials for production of goods. Healthy ecosystems provide the services of clean air, water regulation, pollination of crops and climate control all of which are critical to sustainable development and business success.

In 2002, the CBD adopted its Strategic Plan which includes the mission to achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The 2010 Biodiversity Target was subsequently endorsed by heads of government, including Tony Blair, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.

The achievement of the 2010 target is a global responsibility for governments, civil society and business. This is one of the key messages of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) which warns that collaboration is needed from all sectors of society to move towards the sustainable use and conservation of the world's natural resources. This Assessment concluded that 60% of the ecosystem services evaluated are being



degraded or used unsustainably. This is bad news for business.

COP8 also saw the agreement of the first-ever decision on business engagement in the Convention. The decision noted the multiple reasons for promoting the engagement of business and industry in the implementation of the Convention, and welcomed ongoing and new initiatives to engage businesses in furthering the objectives of the Convention.

So what can business do to better integrate their actions into the framework of the CBD?

The CBD's Strategic Plan encourages co-operation and involvement from key stakeholders in the implementation of the Convention. One of the key objectives in the Strategic Plan is the integration of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies at regional and global levels. This is key to enabling the successful inclusion of the business community in the work of the Convention.

The CBD already provides the framework to guide business action within the context of the Convention. The three objectives of the Convention: conservation; sustainable use; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources highlight avenues by which business can contribute towards meeting the 2010 target.

Businesses can act to conserve threatened and valuable species and habitats by reducing the direct impact of their operations and site-based activities on biodiversity. Business is a significant global landowner, and better management of their estates and control of pollutants can see tangible gains for important species and habitats. Simple adjustments to activities and better site design by architects and engineers can make a tangible difference to the biodiversity in the area.

Businesses can ensure that their supply chains of goods and services are sustainable. A fundamental feature of a successful business is the management of business risk. Businesses across all sectors are increasingly realising that unsustainable consumption of goods is a material risk to their business continuity and profitability. Modern businesses rely on timely delivery of goods and services to secure their profits. The erosion of ecosystem services and loss of continuity of supply pose a real risk to the essential logistics of a successful business.

And finally, the access and benefit-sharing objective of the Convention highlights the importance of developing partnerships with NGOs, civil society, indigenous peoples and others to engage communities in business operations, and creating opportunity and value for key stakeholders and the company.

The Convention also provides a number of practical tools that business can use to manage and reduce their impacts. The Ecosystem Approach, which is the primary framework for action under the CBD, provides a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It also provides the delivery mechanism for progress towards societal, environmental and economic considerations, and recognizes that human beings, with their cultural diversity, are part of many ecosystems.

COP8 also recently endorsed the use of voluntary guidelines on biodiversity inclusive impact assessment. These are increasingly being used by a number of businesses to assess their impacts on the natural environment on which their sustainability, profitability and growth depend.

And what can governments do to facilitate this process?

The CBD is a powerful forum for international engagement on biodiversity, but its decision-making processes are a mystery to the un-initiated. The Convention can and should do more to involve business in its work. The CBD can also do more to spread its message of the importance of biodiversity and make the case for concrete action by business. We are increasingly seeing this happen. There was a very vocal and effective business representation at COP8 in Brazil. Governments, however, need to engage business nationally and locally, because that is where the impacts are felt most. CBD National Focal Points can play a role here.

Just such a partnership approach between government policy makers, NGOs and business has proved very useful in taking forward the aims of the England Biodiversity Strategy's workstream on Business. For example, in the UK we have Sites of Special Scientific Interest set aside for protection. UK business is increasingly playing a key role in restoring the degraded Sites, which are under their occupancy and ownership, by working with NGOs and local governments to improve management of the sites. This has led to an improvement from the 2003 baseline of 53% company owned/managed areas in favorable condition, to 71% in favorable condition in 2005. This example illustrates just one of the tangible benefits that business engagement can bring to biodiversity.

I look forward to seeing increased involvement by the business community in the Convention over the next few years. Every one of us has an essential part to play in reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010 - a demanding challenge but one that business can certainly rise to. ♣





# Strengthening South-South Cooperation in the Field of Biodiversity

Established in 1964, the Group of 77, of which South Africa has the honour of chairing this year, has always attached the highest importance to the promotion of South-South Cooperation (SSC) in achieving the objective of international cooperation for development, not as a substitute for the more traditional North-South cooperation but as a complement. In 1981, the Caracas Programme of Action was adopted by the Group of 77 to provide the framework and mechanism of implementation for this important instrument, and as a result, SSC has emerged as a powerful tool to foster the solidarity and the cohesiveness of the 131 developing countries, members of the Group of 77, representing Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Today South-South cooperation has emerged as a unique mechanism for promoting exchange of experiences and dissemination of best practices based on the spirit of solidarity of its members, as the projects are conceived, designed and managed by developing countries and the expertise and technology transferred is developed in the South. In 2003, at the initiative of the Group of 77, the UN General Assembly declared 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation (resolution 58/220).

As you are aware, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China, on the occasion of the Second South Summit held in Doha in June 2005, expressed their support for South-South cooperation and the need for developing countries to pool their resources and potentialities in the international sphere of development. The recently held Meeting of Ministers of Science and Technology of the Member States of the Group of 77 in Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil also discussed South-South Cooperation and provided tremendous impetus to strengthening and deepening cooperation among developing countries in various aspects of sustainable development.

Though we have seen immense progress towards South-South Cooperation in the realm of trade and overall economic development, South-South cooperation in the field of the environment and biodiversity in particu-

lar has seen limited success. Achievements in the sphere of South-South cooperation and biodiversity will further enable developing countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

It is important for us to bear in mind the need for supportive policies and programmes both within the UN system and the wider global environment to complement South-South initiatives. Also, it is and



will continue to be part of our approach to include different stakeholders, for example the private sector and civil society, which in our development interests would preferably be South-based.

South-South cooperation is an important means of meeting the challenges facing developing countries, and it must be recognized to constitute one of the dimensions of international cooperation for development and preservation of our natural environment. Still we must recognize that South-South cooperation is in no way a substitute for obligations that our partners have in fulfilling the tenets of the Convention. South-South cooperation is always a complement to North-South obligations and that much more can be achieved if we have the full and timely support of our development partners.

The challenges facing developing countries in halting the loss of biodiversity and

mitigating the risks of biodiversity losses, particularly in least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and Africa in general, demonstrate that South-South cooperation for sustainable development, as a complement to North-South cooperation, remains an important force for the successful preservation of biodiversity. South-South cooperation is therefore one of the key modalities for enhancing the implementation of this vital convention at the service of the legitimate development needs of the developing countries.

In developing countries, natural capital is an important asset for enhancing development and growth. The successful implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)—the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources—is key to achieving sustainable development in developing countries. However, this wealth is disappearing at a frightening pace, undermining the possibilities for sustained growth of developing countries.

In order to benefit from our respective experiences in promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity and ensuring that biodiversity will continue to contribute to our individual and collective long-term development, the Group of 77, under the Chairmanship of the Republic of South Africa, initiated the preparatory process of a long-term plan of action among developing countries for the implementation of the three objectives of the CBD. To assist in the preparation of this plan of action, an experts brainstorming workshop was convened in Montreal from 6 to 8 November 2006 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with the support of the Group of 77 to provide inputs to the preparatory process. The proposed action plan to be further discussed in the preparatory process will be submitted for adoption by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in May 2008 in Bonn, Germany. I call on our bilateral and multilateral development partners to support this unique initiative in the history of the Multilateral Environment Conventions. ❖

## An Inconvenient Truth: Nobody Cares about Biodiversity

### Whither biodiversity?

In case you haven't noticed, Al Gore, the former vice-president of the United States of America, is now a movie star, playing the lead role in his popular new documentary on global climate change entitled, "An Inconvenient Truth". In the film, Gore presents, with the precision of a surgeon supported by the latest communication technology, an easily understood, if frightening lesson on the science of global climate change, the role that humans are playing in accentuating the process of global warming, and what everybody on the planet can do, from presidents to prime ministers, from governors to CEOs, from consumers to producers, to help reverse the warming trend. The reviews of the movie have been glowing and it has helped maintain the climate change issue, along with the continuing alarm bells of the Economist and other newspapers, at the top of the global agenda.

For those of us who share the passion for biodiversity conservation that Al Gore has for global climate change, this has to be a cause for both a bit of jealousy and alarm, as well as an opportunity for self-examination. We must ask ourselves, what is preventing the issue of biodiversity from having an equal resonance as climate change in the minds of policy-makers and the "man-in-the street" such that the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity are not only embraced but fully integrated into the behavior of consumers and society and thus reflected in economic development policy? What can we discern from the fact that biodiversity has virtually fallen off the public radar screen in the last decade except amongst its most ardent promoters? Many hoped that the message promoted by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that biodiversity provides an array of economically and ecologically irreplaceable goods and services that are essential to life itself might serve as a rallying cry for a global effort to support biodiversity conservation. However, the simple message that without biodiversity there is no life had very little staying power.

### The way forward in the GEF

I would posit that not only do we have a biodiversity crisis in terms of the ongoing losses and degradation of ecosystems, species and genes that we bear witness to, but that we also have a crisis, perhaps more important in its severity and potential impact,

in terms of our inability to demonstrate the economic and ecosystem benefits that a biodiversity-rich world provides all of us. Within the GEF biodiversity program, this recognition is manifest in our strategy implemented during fiscal years 2003–2006 and will be accentuated to a larger degree in fiscal years 2007–2010. In our ongoing support to protected areas management, the GEF changed focus from improving the management effectiveness of individual protected areas to developing sustainable systems of protected areas at national levels that are characterized by viable representation of samples of ecosystems, increasingly diversified and sustainable revenue streams to support their management costs, and increased capacity for management at all levels. A prime example of innovation within our protected areas portfolio comes from South Africa where the GEF is supporting a project in one of the world's 25 most threatened biodiversity hot spots; the Wild Coast area of the Eastern Cape Province. While being incredibly rich in biodiversity, the area suffers from weak economic growth and the local government has limited capacity to manage protected areas. Consequently, the GEF is helping develop partnerships between the Provincial Parks Board, local municipalities, and local communities to establish protected area co-management arrangements to enable both protection of biodiversity and sustainable economic development based in particular on increasing tourism revenues to all sectors of the local economy. In this context, the biodiversity in protected areas is not only seen for its existence-value, but as an essential contribution to local and national economic development.

During fiscal years 2003–2006, we recognized the imperative to support and further catalyze the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the productive sectors of the economy as a fundamental part of an investment strategy to ensure sustainable biodiversity conservation. For example, working with the Rain Forest Alliance, coffee farmers, local certifiers, marketers, government regulators, coffee roasters, distributors, marketers, and consumers, in a wide range of countries in central and southern America, North America, and Europe, the GEF is helping to transform the entire premium coffee market from one where social and organic standards are adhered to, to one where "biodiver-



sity-friendliness" is also valued. The key to success is thought to be an approach that tackles the entire market chain – from producer to consumer, since simply working in one part of the system, unless it is a particular bottleneck, will not make much progress without simultaneous progress in all other parts of the market chain. A different approach to mainstreaming is being promoted in Central America; one of the world's richest areas for biodiversity with a wide variety of biodiversity protection initiatives in place in the region, including the loose framework for a region wide "meso-American biological corridor". However, these efforts are primarily government or NGO-driven and receive little support from the private sector, which tends to see biodiversity conservation as an impediment to development rather than as an opportunity. Based on a business opportunity analysis, the potential for small-scale biodiversity-based businesses has been identified and includes, in particular ecotourism, but also wild products, agroforestry, and sustainable agriculture and forestry. However, a key barrier to business development is the difficulty for small-scale entrepreneurs to obtain loan financing for their initiatives. The GEF is working through the Central American Bank for Economic Integration to support local banks in making loans available to small biodiversity-based businesses. Much of the work involves simply familiarizing local banking officers with the risks and opportunities associated with biodiversity-based business. It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in the number of biodiversity-based business people prepared to maintain biodiversity as the basis for their own enterprises.





Applying the right conservation tool at the right time and in the right place will remain paramount going forward. As such, improving the management effectiveness of protected area systems will always be a part of our tool-kit. Sustainable protected area systems can be seen as our biodiversity “savings account”, where a conservative investment brings us steady returns. Mainstreaming biodiversity into management practices and the associated sector’s enabling environment, fostering the creation of new markets for biodiversity goods and services including carbon, removing barriers to biodiversity-based businesses, and selective and proactive engagement with the private sector will also remain key components of our comprehensive biodiversity strategy in fiscal years 2007-2010. Although this represents a higher-risk aspect of our strategy, success can bring long-term returns on investments that we can only imagine right now. Mainstreaming biodiversity and demonstrating the contribution that biodiversity can provide to economic development is an area of potential growth in the field of conservation, but it is also an area of limited experience globally. Data from mainstreaming projects that demonstrate measurable and favorable impact on biodiversity are scarce; hence, our investments in fiscal years 2003-2006 were marked by experimentation with a variety of innovative approaches being initiated, as noted above. As such, our own mainstreaming portfolio will require close monitoring to extract project design and implementation lessons that can be applied to new projects in the portfolio.

All these caveats aside, only when we demonstrate to finance ministries and the private sector the array of ecological and economic benefits that biodiversity provides and the fact that biodiversity underpins the sustainability of the corporate enterprise will our “Al Gore” surface to trumpet the value of biodiversity to the woman on a Manhattan street, to the farmer on the forest edge in Cameroon, to the policy maker in parliament, to a local government official or private landowner deciding on how to secure a protected area while increasing tourist revenue, capturing carbon credits, or selling the water produced by the forest he or she protects. Moral suasion of the imperative to conserve biodiversity for future generations alone has not worked. As passionately as we discuss the myriad ecological benefits and existence values that a lowland tropical rain provides the global community, we must equally demonstrate the economic value of that same forest stand. We look forward to working with you in making this a reality over the next decade and hope that we can change the title of a future article to the following: Biodiversity Matters. ♣

## On the Environmental Dimension of the Doha Round

Today our planet is being impoverished by the loss of countless races and varieties of species. The species that we are losing are ones that we know little or nothing about, and whose habitats we have yet to begin to understand. While extinction has indeed been a fact of life since life emerged, almost all past extinctions occurred by natural processes. Now human activities are overwhelmingly the cause. If nations were to ensure the survival of species, the world could look forward to new types of food, to more nutritious food, to new medicines, and to new raw materials for industry. Conserving our environmental and biological resources would not only preserve the “living environment” that hosts our species, but would also preserve the natural resource base upon which many of our economic activities depend—a base that we must strive to use sustainably.

What is the role—or rather the responsibility—of the multilateral trading system in helping to preserve our biological heritage? When the World Trade Organization came into being in 1995, its members were careful to call in the very first paragraph of its founding charter for the pursuit of “sustainable development.” In making this appeal, members were fully cognizant of the fact that, while trade can lead to an efficient allocation of resources—natural and otherwise, it does not automatically enhance human welfare. It needs to be accompanied by the right set of policies, including by the internalization of negative environmental externalities.

The launch of the Doha Development Agenda (the DDA) in 2001 initiated the first ever environmental negotiation in the context of a trade round. In short, the environmental objectives that members have tried to pursue through the round are threefold: one, to ensure that the WTO does not stand in the way of multilaterally agreed rules for the protection of the environment; two, to accelerate the removal of trade measures that could themselves hurt the environment; and three,

to accelerate the opening of trade to goods and services that could protect the environment.

The first objective is being accomplished through negotiations on the relationship between WTO rules and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). In these negotiations members are exploring the way in which the trade measures contained in MEAs interact with WTO rules. That exploration process has itself been awareness raising for WTO members, who now realize the importance of pursuing their environmental and trade obligations in a harmonious way. Several MEAs that deal with biological resources have been

raised, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and regional fisheries accords.

Of course, the Appellate Body of the WTO has already confirmed that the WTO is not a legal system that operates in isolation—it simply cannot; and nor can the Convention on Biological Diversity or any other treaty for that matter. In dispute after dispute, the Appellate Body has confirmed that the WTO is capable of taking other bodies of international law

into account. The objective of ongoing negotiations is simply to ensure a harmonious co-existence between the different legal regimes that we have created internationally.

In parallel to the WTO-MEA negotiations, specific discussions are taking place on the relationship between the WTO’s agreement on intellectual property rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The issues of access to genetic resources, prior informed consent and benefit-sharing are all being explored.

In accelerating the tackling of trade measures that hurt the environment, members have chosen to concentrate their efforts on an area of great importance to biodiversity—the world’s fisheries. More specifically, they are looking at disciplining environmentally harmful fisheries subsidies in the context of the Doha Round. The proponents of new disciplines





## Our joint challenge: achieving the 2010 biodiversity target

in the WTO argue that an estimated \$14–20 billion of annual fishing subsidies are depleting the world's fish stock. They have inflated the size of the global fishing fleet, which now stands some 24,400 large decked ships and well over 2 million smaller commercial craft. The size of this fleet, combined with massive advances in fishing technology (in particular trawling), have caused alarm. Whereas in 1950, our fish catch amounted to 20 million tons, in 2003 it has soared to 81 million tons. But did our fish stock also grow? Sadly not. Instead, some of the world's oldest living fish species are on the verge of extinction. But luckily, the WTO is not fighting this battle alone. In fact, it cannot do so, since we cannot protect our environment only through trade rules. The Food and Agriculture Organization, for instance, is also heavily involved, working on issues such as the reduction of "bycatch"—the catching of unwanted fish accidentally. In fact, the protection of world's fisheries requires greater coherence in the objectives that countries pursue through the different international organizations that they are members of.

Through the Doha Round, WTO members are trying to accelerate trade opening to environmentally beneficial goods and services. For it makes no sense to erect barriers vis-à-vis products or services that could help our environment. In fact, we should be encouraging, as opposed to penalizing, trade of this kind. Several of the products, whose trade members would like to liberalize through these negotiations, could help preserve our biological resources; such as environmental monitoring and assessment, and soil remediation and clean-up equipment. We all know that the preservation of the world's flora and fauna must be begin by an accurate monitoring of its status and of its habitats. These negotiations could contribute to that goal. Environmental consultancy services and numerous other services too could be opened through the negotiations, helping us preserve our biological resources.

The Doha Round was suspended last July, with the reason being that members could not agree on the very divisive subject of agriculture. This subject is itself of tremendous importance to biodiversity. Trade distorting agricultural subsidies in many parts of the world have encouraged intensive methods of agricultural production, to the detriment of the environment. With the suspension of the Doha Round, we have also suspended a historic opportunity to mainstream environmental concerns into WTO rules. We have suspended the first ever environmental negotiation in the context of multilateral trade talks. Another reason why the negotiations ought to resume! ❏

**W**ith just four years left to reach the target of a significant reduction in biodiversity loss – the internationally agreed '2010 biodiversity target' – it is time to take stock of progress and ask what needs to be done to place us firmly on a path to success.

The target is undoubtedly an ambitious one. All of us are painfully aware of the rapid and accelerating loss of biodiversity and its implications for the lives of the millions of people who depend on nature's resources. But we also know that reversing biodiversity loss is possible, as numerous conservation success stories documented in IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species prove: the southern white rhino in Africa, or more recently the white-tailed eagle in Europe, the blue-poison frog in South America, and West African giraffes. In other cases, the clear identification of threats and proper implementation of conservation measures have helped stop massive declines and given hope for recovery of species such as the Asian vultures and the Goliath grouper in the Caribbean.

Biodiversity loss cannot be reversed by the environmental community alone, it must become the responsibility of everyone with the power and resources to act. New alliances are needed across all sectors of society. We know what needs to be done and we have the tools at our disposal. What we need is to accelerate the collective action of the different sectors including government, businesses, academia, international institutions and local organizations and to further develop our knowledge, where needed.

The 2010 biodiversity target can act as a rallying point and provide a common vision under which we all unite. I see four main challenges inherent in the target and these are all being addressed by The World Conservation Union (IUCN) through its secretariat, commissions, members and partners.

### Link biodiversity to the development agenda and mobilize market forces

Biodiversity must be valued as the *foundation* of life on earth and as an essential element for future economic development. We must ensure that the terms 'biodiversity' and 'ecosystem services' are meaningful to the development community and to the pri-

vate sector, so that ecosystem services are taken into account in development decision making.

As noted by the CBD Parties, conserving biodiversity, and specifically achieving the 2010 biodiversity target, is fundamental to ensure poverty reduction and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, in particular for reducing hunger in rural areas where 70% of the poor live. We therefore need to ensure that biodiversity is mainstreamed in global, regional and national development policies, including in development cooperation and trade policies at the international level. We also need to ensure that all countries have the means to implement their international commitments on biodiversity as a critical step in their efforts to achieve sustainability. Biodiversity must also be included in the national development strategies called for by the 2005 World Summit.

IUCN's work on the link between conservation and poverty reduction involves safeguarding ecosystem goods and services to support livelihoods in forests, drylands, wetlands, and protected areas. It also produces the tools to support livelihood security such as poverty reduction strategies. In 2005, IUCN launched the Conservation for Poverty Reduction Initiative which provides a platform for the Union to mobilize the capacity of its members, commissions and secretariat, as well as partners, to contribute to poverty reduction. The Message from Paris, produced by the development and environment communities in September 2006, demonstrates the commitment by government and civil society to integrate biodiversity into European development cooperation. In 2008 we shall assess progress in implementing the Message.

We also need to mobilize the market place in support of the 2010 biodiversity target, through incentive measures that promote the conservation of essential ecosystem services such as water purification and carbon storage. We also have to engage the private sector as a critical force in shaping the sustainability of our planet. The *Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge* and the work done in Curitiba that IUCN supported, are encouraging signs that there are already willing and progressive businesses showing the way.

### Provide sound science to guide decision making and track progress

Sound science is critical for making the right decisions about biodiversity and for measuring progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target. Our challenge is to provide governments, the private sector, and all those responsible for natural resource use with the hard evidence that biodiversity loss matters. Only by documenting the status of biodiversity and identifying specific threats can we make a strong case for the actions and funding needed to protect it, as shown by the conservation successes mentioned earlier. We do not have a fully comprehensive baseline of biodiversity information that allows us to measure progress toward the 2010 target and it is impossible to assess the status of every known species with the time and funding available. So, IUCN's Species Survival Commission and Species Programme are working with partners in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership to provide a series of biodiversity indicators that will be critical in steering conservation action in the right direction and for setting priorities amid so many conflicting demands.

We are also developing measures to assess sustainability of biodiversity use, which is critical to consider the relationship between biodiversity and development, and the impact of climate change on biodiversity. IUCN continually compiles data on the status of biodiversity, and improves the tools and processes needed to maintain high standards of data quality. We have made significant progress in increasing the coverage of the Red List and developing a Red List Index but overall, progress in developing an information baseline and suitable indicators is slow. We must therefore join forces to secure the necessary investment.

### Mobilize political and public support

One of the main challenges to achieve the 2010 is generating the political will to ensure that commitments are implemented. This requires positioning biodiversity, and the 2010 biodiversity target, higher on the international political agenda, linking it to the Millennium Development Goals and mobilizing public support at global, regional, national and local levels.

The Heads of Agencies Task Force on the 2010 Target established at the last meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties is now working towards uniting efforts to better communicate and mobilize society in support of the 2010 biodiversity target.

Experience with the Countdown 2010 initiative, launched by IUCN in Europe, shows that it is possible to mobilize support and create a movement around the target. The initia-



tive is now spreading to other regions of the world creating a powerful network of active partners working together and generating the momentum to reach it. As well as promoting the importance of the 2010 biodiversity target and encouraging action, the initiative also assesses progress towards reaching it.

IUCN is also working with the CBD's Executive Secretary to develop a toolkit on Communication, Education and Public Awareness for national focal points and others responsible for biodiversity policy. It will also be used by educators, media and communication professionals with an interest in biodiversity.

We need to learn from our experiences and unite around the 2010 biodiversity target to mobilize support from all parts of society and at all scales. Getting the message across about the significance of biodiversity is critical. What do the terms 'biodiversity' and the '2010 target' mean to the general public? More than half of the world's population now lives in towns and cities, removed both physically and spiritually from the natural world. The links between biodiversity and

human well-being and security are being lost amongst the roar of cities while they remain a matter of survival in poor rural communities.

We, the environmentalists, have fallen short in reaching the mainstream of society by not using the appropriate language or the market forces at our disposal. We have to move beyond talking amongst ourselves. Unless a critical mass of people and their leaders understand that healthy, functioning ecosystems are the foundation of human life and prosperity, we will continue to see 'politics-as-usual', blinkered economic policies, and the continued over-exploitation of natural resources.

Achieving 2010 will be almost impossible if we do not work together. Even though challenges remain and progress to date has been slow, I believe there is still time to capitalize on the opportunities the target presents. By rethinking our way to engage outside our community, we can influence the policies and investments which will help create a society that values and conserves biodiversity for the sake of people and the planet. ♣

## Business, Biodiversity & Ecosystems



**THE WBCSD BELIEVES THE BUSINESS SECTOR HAS SPECIFIC SKILLS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO ASSIST THE CBD, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS IN THEIR WORK ON DEVELOPING OPTIONS FOR VALUING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS SERVICES AND ON INTEGRATING THE VALUES OF BIODIVERSITY RESOURCES AND FUNCTIONS AND ASSOCIATED ECOSYSTEM SERVICES INTO DECISION-MAKING.**

**T**he World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) is a coalition of some 200 international companies united by a shared commitment to sustainable development via the three pillars of economic growth, ecological balance and social progress.

Representing an annual turnover of US\$ 5,200 billion and 12 million employees, WBCSD member companies touch the lives of 3 billion customers a day with their products and services. We also benefit from a global network of some 55 national and regional business councils and partner organizations.

The WBCSD believes that business cannot function if ecosystems and the services they deliver—like water, biodiversity, food, fiber and climate—are degraded or out of balance.

The Council and its members have been aggressive on this issue. We have published two booklets for business on biodiversity management, including a case study resource illustrating company responses, and we are working with Earthwatch Institute, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Resources Institute (WRI) on further publications.

We have been involved in developing approaches to biodiversity management specific to key sectors such as forestry, cement, mining, and water projects. We cooperate with a range of NGOs and have a Memorandum of Understanding with the IUCN, signed in 2005, to intensify collabora-

tion on the role of markets and business in supporting biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management and use of ecosystem services.

Our founder and honorary chairman, Swiss industrialist Stephan Schmidheiny, funded WRI to do the early scoping work on the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (MA), and since then, we have provided various business inputs to the effort, such as support for the preparation and release of the MA's synthesis report for business and industry in 2005 and the preparation of an Issue Brief, "Sustaining ecosystems and ecosystem services", to inform member companies and the business sector about the MA findings and implications for industry.

In November 2005, we established the Ecosystems Champions Group of WBCSD member companies to catalyze the business sector response to ecosystem opportunities and challenges outlined in the MA. The Group has since developed the Council's Sustaining Ecosystems Initiative (SEI) with four work streams focusing on ecosystem services—standardizing approaches to measurement and assessment, policy frameworks such as the CBD, business and market innovation, and best practice mitigation and stewardship.

Today WBCSD and several member companies and WRI are designing a project to pilot test an Ecosystem Services Review methodology allowing companies to better understand their ecosystems impacts, dependency, liabilities and assets - and to respond accordingly. The development of this type of tool was a strong recommendation of the MA's Business and Industry Synthesis report which WBCSD assisted author.

This Ecosystems Champions Group and our members in general believe that little can

be achieved when so many ecosystem services are freely available public goods. The absence of property rights, pricing and valuation systems contribute in many ways to the continued degradation and unsustainable consumption of services.

Some thoughtful businesses are already addressing the challenge. They understand that encouraging ecosystem sustainability can be profitable in the long term, and can create new business opportunities, including new technologies and products that can stem degradation, rehabilitate ecosystems, or increase efficiency of ecosystem service use. We can benefit from new markets, such as water quality trading, certified sustainable products, and wetland and endangered species banking, and new businesses, such as ecosystem restoration and environmental asset finance or brokerage. There can be new revenue streams for assets that enable companies to capture economic value from ecosystem assets, such as forests, that are currently undervalued.

The WBCSD and its member companies want to work with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on developing and sharing best practice business strategies and market innovations for ecosystem stewardship, biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of ecosystem services and impact mitigation. We want to champion efforts to standardize ecosystems measurement and impact assessment that improve business decision-making and biodiversity outcomes.

Last year the Council set out on a new strategic path focusing on advocating policy solutions. We believe that changes in behavior necessary to arrest and then reverse the trend in degradation of ecosystems require the concerted action of regulators as well as the initiative of leading companies. In this



spirit, we want to collaborate with NGO and CBD stakeholders to advise on the design of enabling policy frameworks that maximize the positive contribution of business. Our credibility in doing this will be improved if we can at the same time foster stakeholder dialogue, partnership and action for the sustainable management of ecosystems and use of ecosystem services.

We are already encouraging companies to participate in national delegations to CBD processes including the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, COP and other intergovernmental meetings, and in technical expert groups. We continue to facilitate the development of additional sector-specific strategies and encourage companies to align their policies and practices more explicitly with the goals and targets of the Convention.

The WBCSD believes the business sector has specific skills to provide technical expertise to assist the CBD, national governments and other stakeholders in their work on developing options for valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services and on integrating the values of biodiversity resources and functions and associated ecosystem services into decision-making. Business can also help in capturing the calculated values through the careful design of markets for ecosystem services, and help design positive incentive measures.

The breadth and economic importance of ecosystems make it essential for the CBD to engage with a wide range of government departments and ministers, including Planning and Finance, so that decisions can be made with possession of information on all the relevant options for resource use.

The WBCSD recognizes that policy frameworks for ecosystems and their services require constructive collaboration and innovation between business, governments and NGOs, as this will deliver better outcomes for business, society and nature.

We are ready to work with governments, other industry associations with an ecosystems focus and CBD stakeholders to address linkages between sustainable development, ecosystem stewardship, biodiversity conservation, the sustainable use of ecosystem services and impact mitigation.

We are encouraged by how the debate is shifting to the concept of sustainable management and use of nature versus the old paradigm of conservation and “setting aside” of natural resources. The value and sustainable use of ecosystems services must be part of the economic planning and decision making in society; otherwise nature will always be treated as a second priority compared with the economy. ❖

## Biodiversity for Poverty Reduction: Mainstreaming Environment and Ecosystem Services in National Development Plans and Strategies

Increasingly, policymakers and society at large have come to realize that biodiversity and the full variety of goods and services provided by healthy, intact ecosystems are fundamental to human well-being and sustainable development. Indeed, during the 8th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, ministers reaffirmed the call for a strengthened international commitment to ‘achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional, and national levels as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth’. The UN Secretary-General has also called for this target to be formally incorporated into the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) framework, a global agenda of eight quantified, time-bound development goals.

However, it is becoming ever clearer that isolated, one-off efforts to produce strategies and plans for biodiversity conservation are unlikely to succeed. Instead, what is needed are ongoing, broad-based, participatory processes for integrating biodiversity considerations into mainstream economic policies, sectoral planning, and national development strategies.

### Biodiversity for Development: Providing Livelihoods for the Poor and a Foundation for Sustainable Poverty Reduction

The international community has come a long way from the days when biodiversity was regarded as a luxury that only rich nations could afford to be concerned about. Today, scientists and laypersons alike recognize that biodiversity and the integrity of ecosystems are key development concerns. Natural ecosystems (such as forests, grasslands, wetlands, oceans, and waterways) and the biodiversity they support provide most of the livelihoods and day-to-day needs for the rural poor, including food, potable water, medicinal

plants, fuelwood, fodder, and building materials. For example, according to IUCN, the World Conservation Union, wild resources and non-timber forest products provide more than 20 percent of rural household incomes in Viet Nam, up to 35 percent in Zimbabwe, and more than 50 percent in Senegal.

In addition, biodiversity and other environmental resources often serve as a ‘welfare system of last resort’ for the poor during difficult times when other sources of income are unavailable.

Because biodiversity is such an important asset for the poor, progress in reducing poverty, hunger, and disease will not be sustainable unless conservation and wise use of biodiversity and ecosystem services are built into the process. In fact, the recent findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a four-year study conducted by more than 1,300 scientists from 95 countries, indicate


that in all global regions, and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the condition and management of ecosystems is a ‘dominant factor’ affecting the chances of success in fighting poverty.

UNDP’s commitment to supporting developing countries to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target is part and parcel of our efforts to help achieve the MDGs. As scientific assessments of ecosystem health have made clear, many of the regions facing the biggest hurdles in reaching the MDGs coincide with those experiencing significant degradation of ecosystems and their capacity to provide the services needed by the poor and society in general.

### Limitations of Stand-Alone Approaches to Biodiversity and Development

Past approaches to conserving biodiversity often focused on maintaining the diversity of species and species assemblages. The primary response was the establishment of parks and protected areas, which currently cover slightly more than 10 percent of the world’s surface area. Yet, considerable gaps





in coverage remain, and even with increased coverage, protected areas alone are unlikely to cover the full range of the planet's biodiversity. Clearly, the response of the international community to biodiversity loss must address not only the creation and effective management of parks and protected areas, but also the planning and implementation of broad-based actions designed to conserve biodiversity and the full range of critical habitats and ecosystems on which the diversity of the Earth's life forms rely.

Experience has shown that biodiversity strategies and action plans developed as one-off exercises crafted in isolation from other sectoral policies and programming, are unlikely to be effective in protecting biodiversity and the integrity of critical ecosystem functions. The key drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are in the productive sectors of the economy, including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, transport, and finance. Unless biodiversity-related issues, commitments, and targets are incorporated in sectoral policies and broader economic and development planning, there is little chance that governments and the private-sector will examine the impact of proposed growth policies on environmental sustainability, the functioning of critical ecosystems, and the natural resources on which the poor depend.

### **Embedding Biodiversity Objectives in Broad-Based Economic Policies and Development Planning: The Promise of 'Mainstreaming'**

In order to conserve the full range of biodiversity and the intact natural ecosystems required for human well-being, it is clear that biodiversity objectives must be embedded in a wide range of human activities, including key productive sectors of the economy, as well as national development planning frameworks, institutions and governance, and market-based mechanisms. This 'mainstreaming' of biodiversity conservation is crucial for effective action to address the underlying forces that drive biodiversity loss, including inappropriate policies and incentives. Rather than isolated initiatives, what is needed is a system of ongoing, coordinated processes, characterized by experimental approaches and adaptive learning, and featuring participation by government, private-sector, and civil society stakeholders.

Among the most promising opportunities for instituting such open, transparent, and accountable processes are the MDG-based national development strategies, agreed upon at the 2005 World Summit. These MDG-based national strategies need to lay out concrete steps for maintaining biodiversity in productive agricultural, forest, marine, and urban ecosystems and assign clear

responsibility for their successful implementation to the appropriate line ministries. Besides national governments, the active involvement of local authorities, communities, and the private sector will also be integral to success.

### **Examples of Successful Mainstreaming at the Country Level**

For many countries, meeting the 2010 Biodiversity Target and formulating a MDG-based national development strategy is challenging or elusive – given on-the-ground realities. The practical question remains – how can countries create strategies for effectively reaching the 2010 target and achieving the integration of biodiversity conservation in national development plans? The search for answers can benefit greatly from lessons provided by countries with considerable experience incorporating biodiversity into national planning frameworks.

One country that has been successful in mainstreaming environment into its national development planning is Tanzania. A key factor behind Tanzania's success has been its ability to make a strong case for the role of environment and natural resources in poverty reduction, incorporating solid data and analysis of the links between poverty and environment. In Tanzania's case, this has meant demonstrating that the livelihoods of more than 60 percent of the population depend on environment and natural resources; two thirds of GDP derives from environment and natural resource-related enterprises; and poor management of environmental resources drives up national health care costs. Due in part to the strength of the case for poverty-environment linkages, Tanzania has been able to set specific, quantitative goals and targets on quality of and access to environmental resources for inclusion in its National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty.

Another emerging success story comes from the island nation of the Maldives - one of the first countries to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The national government is currently engaged in formulating its seventh National Development Plan (NDP), which will set an agenda for poverty reduction and specify the macroeconomic framework and sectoral policies and programmes for the five-year period through 2011. To ensure that biodiversity is adequately addressed in the NDP, a special working group has been convened to review the sectoral roadmaps of the seventh NDP and recommend policies and measures to ensure that every action identified in the country's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is adequately reflected in the NDP. Particularly important to this effort has been a commitment to work across line ministries in the planning process, including cooperative

efforts between the Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Water and the Ministry of Planning and National Development.

### **Further Actions to Encourage Mainstreaming of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in National Development Planning**

Sustainable management of natural systems and the biodiversity they support is moving inexorably from being a 'side issue' relegated to the margins of national policy debates, to a fundamental tenet guiding broad-based economic decision-making and development planning at the highest levels. To reap the promise of mainstreaming approaches, diverse communities of stakeholders need to work together. The biodiversity community will be well served by actively engaging with national development planning processes and working closely with the development community, thus encouraging other economic and planning sectors to engage in turn with biodiversity issues, targets, and commitments.

One promising sign is the proposal made by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his Annual Report to the 61st Session of the General Assembly, which calls for the formal integration of the 2010 Biodiversity Target in the MDG framework. This forward-looking action will help to align the MDG process with the CBD, creating just the kind of policy and planning framework that is needed at all levels in order to foster lasting success in reducing poverty and ensuring protection of biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

For UNDP, we seek to do our part by making 'Biodiversity for Development' a primary area of focus. UNDP is now rolling out MDG-based support services intended to assist countries in formulating MDG-based national development strategies in response to commitments made at the 2005 World Summit. Our experience in more than 140 UNDP Country Offices worldwide proves that there is considerable demand for assistance with environmental mainstreaming and related capacity development. UNDP also supports countries in accessing a range of emerging markets for environmental services and biodiversity-based products that offer developing countries expanded options for benefiting from the protection and sustainable use of their biological resources.

Today, more than ever before, there is recognition of the importance of integrating the environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups into mainstream development processes at global, national, and local levels. We at UNDP stand ready to collaborate with partners worldwide – governments, civil society, and the private sector – to make this vision a reality. ❖



# Le respect de l'environnement est un pas vers un monde sans frontières

Mesdames, messieurs,

**D**ans mon pays natal qu'est la Tunisie, c'est un très grand plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole pour une cause qui mérite toute notre attention : l'avenir des terres sèches. La beauté de nos déserts est en péril et le futur de ses populations incertain. Nous avons besoin d'une révolution écologique qui doit se faire de plus en plus sentir dans nos consciences.

Beaucoup de pays ont commencé depuis longtemps à construire un futur plus durable. Des cris d'alarme commencent à frapper aux portes d'autres États et aux portes des multinationales. Les scientifiques ont ouvert le chemin et continuent à nous éclairer la voie, les médias accordent de plus en plus de place au sujet de l'environnement... Mais c'est aussi grâce à la culture, l'éducation et l'art de suivre et de soutenir ces discours que nous pouvons rendre « naturel » un rapport sain avec la nature.

Dans les déserts, l'eau joue un rôle clef. Mais gardons-nous de parler de l'eau comme d'un élément potentiel de conflit. Parlons plutôt de l'eau comme un élément de paix, d'échanges! L'accès vital aux points d'eau, le

respect des techniques ancestrales et fonctionnelles des peuples, la compréhension des différents rapports que les hommes, dans les diverses parties du monde, entretiennent avec leur habitat sont autant de parties d'un discours inépuisable et essentiel qu'il faut tenir et mettre en action dès maintenant.

Le respect de l'environnement est un pas vers un monde sans frontières. Il ouvre la voie vers une perception plus entière de notre rôle sur terre et des rapports que nous entretenons avec notre prochain... C'est un discours qui unit les peuples, quelles que soient leur couleur, leur race, leur religion... L'esprit d'interdépendance entre les peuples est nécessaire pour éviter que la guerre ne nous soit déclarée par la terre elle-même, non pas pour la gestion que nous faisons de ses ressources mais pour notre pillage de ces mêmes ressources.

Comment est-ce que nous pouvons assurer la paix avec la terre qui nous nourrit? Tout d'abord par une utilisation et une gestion sage de nos ressources. Dans les zones arides et semi-arides, nous bénéficions abondamment du vent et du soleil. Utilisons donc ces ressources presque gratuites et inépuisables! Plutôt que de gaspiller les éner-



gies fossiles et d'augmenter le déboisement des savanes, aidons les populations des déserts à utiliser les énergies renouvelables. Le discours des énergies solaire et éolienne est aujourd'hui au centre de nos préoccupations et, bien qu'il soit encore trop tôt pour pouvoir dépendre exclusivement des énergies renouvelables, il ne faut pas ralentir le pas vers cette évolution !

L'énergie renouvelable dans les déserts n'est qu'un seul exemple. Je voudrais soutenir et promouvoir ce discours avec l'UNESCO en créant des projets qui aident à comprendre les gestes possibles pour construire un futur durable. Les bonnes actions, les bons choix engendrent d'autres bons choix, ils ouvrent d'autres routes car en eux il y a l'amour, et l'amour, une fois éveillé, ne trouve plus d'obstacles, il englobe tout...

Nous avons besoin de clarté, de précision, d'accessibilité à ces thèmes afin de transformer les cris d'alarme en voix de dialogues et en actions. Je demande à tous les scientifiques qui sont parmi nous aujourd'hui de nous montrer les bonnes pratiques pour que l'homme vive en toute harmonie avec la nature. Et quand je parle de « l'homme », je pense tout d'abord à la « femme ». Comme ambassadrice de bonne volonté de l'UNESCO pour les femmes, je souligne qu'il incombe à la femme de transmettre les bonnes pratiques sur la conservation et le développement durable des terres sèches pour le bénéfice des générations futures. ❖



**Messages on the  
Occasion of the International  
Day for Biological Diversity,  
22 May 2006**



## Kofi Annan, *The Secretary-General of the United Nations*

**B**iodiversity permeates the entire spectrum of mankind's activity and habitation, and is directly linked to the well-being of our planet and long-term human progress.

Yet this vital pillar of life is under relentless attack. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, a four-year undertaking by more than 1,300 scientists, provides clear evidence of the damage being done to our world: Earth's environment has changed tremendously in the last half century. The findings point to the need for decisive action to protect our planet.

This year's observance, "Protect Biodiversity in Drylands", highlights an area in particular need of urgent attention. The degradation of drylands—which constitute 40 per cent of the planet's land surface—is having dramatic

effects: some 2,300 species endangered or facing extinction, significant losses in agricultural output, and an economic cost estimated at more than forty-two billion dollars a year.

These consequences are especially troubling because they are borne disproportionately by the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Drylands host eight of the ten least-developed countries in the world, and developing nations are home to the overwhelming majority of the two billion people who rely on dryland ecosystems. As a result, their decline has far-reaching implications for our efforts to fight poverty, hunger and disease. Indeed, significant steps to preserve drylands will help determine whether we will achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

One such step is the need to reverse desertification, a process which not only exacerbates poverty but is also partly caused by it. This year's biodiversity commemoration coincides with the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. These two complementary observances illustrate the strong links between environmental issues, and highlight the need for a comprehensive and global approach to address these concerns.

On this International Day for Biological Diversity, let us resolve to do more to protect the biodiversity on which our planet depends. Let us commit ourselves to safeguarding our drylands, and let us work together to achieve the goal of a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss by the year 2010. ❖

## Ahmed Djoghlaf, *Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity*

**T**he logo for this year's International Day for Biological Diversity includes a cactus flower, symbolizing, as the writer and photographer Randall Henderson said, "courage that triumph[s] over appalling obstacles". Too often, discussions of drylands evoke images of barren sands and parched earth, devoid of life. Instead, we need to note Henderson's words: "For those seeking beauty

the desert offers nature's rarest artistry."

Drylands are teeming with a spectacular parade of unique and well adapted biodiversity. From vast grassland habitats where birds abound, to lush Mediterranean landscapes dominated by endemic succulents, drylands are the cradle of much of the richness of our planet. The Cape Floral Kingdom in South Africa for example, covers less than 0.5 per

cent of the area of Africa, but accounts for almost 20 per cent of the continent's flora.

The beauty of drylands diversity is also manifested in its importance to the communities who live in these regions. In drylands-dominated Senegal, wild resources and non-timber forest products provide 50 per cent of rural household incomes. In general, the biodiversity of drylands provides critical ecosystem services on which humanity relies for food, shelter, and livelihoods. In fact, drylands biodiversity helps maintain 44 per cent of the world's cultivated land. The biodiversity in these regions also supplies essential products for our health. One third of the plant-based drugs in the United States are derived from drylands biodiversity.

The Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity recognized the value of drylands when they adopted the programme of work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands at their fifth meeting. Since then, we have made some progress in protecting this unique biodiversity. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, there has been a steady increase in the populations of grassland and savannah herbivores within protected areas.

Unfortunately, outside the boundaries of protected areas, these positive trends have yet to be achieved, and more than 2,300 known drylands species remain threatened or endangered. While drylands species have developed a number of unique adaptations to dry conditions, the impact of climate change is emerging as an unprecedented challenge to all life in drylands. For the more than one billion people affected by drought and desertification, adaptation





to climate change will be a matter of survival. The speedy implementation of the mutually supportive programmes of work of the Rio conventions—the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is the solution to addressing the root causes of desertification and alleviating the escalating risks of famine and disease resulting from the failure of dryland ecosystems.

The implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity is of critical importance to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal of halving the rate of poverty in the world by 2015. In 2005, at the United Nations Millennium Summit, drylands were identified as an essential factor for the achievement of sustainable development. Eight of the world's ten poorest countries contain a majority of drylands and, as such, actions to conserve and maintain the health of drylands are intimately linked to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

It is for this reason that we have a responsibility, through the adoption of the 2010 Biodiversity Target and the Millennium Development Goals to improve the quality of human life and biodiversity in drylands.

It is for the same reason that 2006 was named the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. It is also the reason that this year's theme for the celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity is "Protect Biodiversity in Drylands". And it is for the same reason that 122 Ministers and other Heads of Delegation attending the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Curitiba, Brazil, demonstrated their solidarity and support to the affected countries and their people by marking the celebration of the International Year of Deserts and Desertification.

The International Day for Biological Diversity provides us with a unique opportunity to renew our commitment as a community of nations bound by a common, long-term, ecological destiny.

"To those who come to the desert with tolerance it gives friendliness; to those who come with courage it gives new strength of character." I invite you all to courageously support concrete actions to conserve and sustainably use the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands. Only by acting with courage, conviction and a sense of collective solidarity will we achieve the 2010 target in dry and sub humid lands and save life on Earth. ❖

I am very pleased to deliver this message on the occasion of International Biodiversity Day and I do warmly welcome the choice of 'Protection of biodiversity in drylands' as the theme for this year's celebration.

The loss of biodiversity is threatening the ability of dryland ecosystems to support life and livelihoods. In fighting this threat, the CBD and UNCCD are joined in a common effort to preserve our natural ecosystems, which are crucial to sustaining all forms of life, be they plant, animal or human.

Drylands make up 47% of the land surface of the Earth and provide a habitat for major animal and plant species. One of the main causes of biodiversity loss in dry and sub-humid lands is desertification and drought, with tremendous consequences in terms of extinction of species that for millennia have survived harsh climatic and ecological conditions.

In addition to the loss of plant and animal species, dryland degradation affects agricultural productivity, in turn causing people dependent on the land for their livelihood to over-exploit it, thus creating further damage. This vicious spiral can and must be broken. It is essential to remind everyone that in protecting our environment, we preserve the diversity of our natural world as well as help secure the livelihoods of millions.

I greatly appreciate the support that this year's theme for International Biodiversity Day lends to the International Year of Deserts and Desertification. It also underlines the highly important synergy between our Conventions and their respective objectives.

The CBD Programme of Work on the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands and the Joint Work Programme with

the UNCCD are major steps forward in this regard. They set out to achieve important common goals: to curb desertification, sustain biodiversity in drylands and reduce the rate of biodiversity loss by the year 2010. In doing so, they emphasize our interrelated objectives and set the course for greater synergy in the implementation of the Rio Conventions. The UNCCD is fully committed to working towards strengthening the Joint Work Programme, including increased efforts to achieve the relevant 2010 biodiversity targets.

Indeed, the 3 Rio Conventions, while each addressing specific environmental concerns, all share a common objective—to achieve sustainable development. In this regard, they play a major role in achieving another set of targets, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which recognize the connection between ecosystem preservation and equitable development. This link is particularly strong in the drylands, with special regard to the first MDG, that of eradicating extreme poverty, where promoting the sustainable use of biodiversity resources plays a key role. Greater synergy among the Rio Conventions can also have a considerable impact, through development of joint activities, particularly at national levels.

Protecting biodiversity clearly has significance not only for the environment, but also for human well-being. The activities launched by the CBD during the International Year of Deserts and Desertification represent a strong commitment towards preserving both life and livelihoods in unique and vulnerable drylands of the world. I welcome the fact that our Conventions are firmly on a common path to provide solutions to this important challenge.

Thank you ❖







“If indeed what we do to the environment today is to be judged by the youth and children of the world, then we must take concrete action now and not merely deal in promises.”

—Ahmed Djoghlaif, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

