



## Press Brief

# Resource Mobilization

### Why is this important?

The lack of adequate financial resources and the under-development of relevant financial mechanisms contributed to the failure to achieve the 2010 Target. But where financial resources were available, true differences were made.

Financing for biodiversity is facing new realities.

The severe global financial crisis of the past two years led to a considerable reduction of financing available for biodiversity at national and international levels. Major international conservation organizations have been forced to cut their spending on biodiversity programmes.

Globally, official development assistance has grown in recent years. But figures from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show that development assistance for climate change has increased much faster than for actions that address both climate change and biodiversity, while the assistance marked for biodiversity alone has sharply declined.

As demonstrated by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2007) and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) (2010), the benefits of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services far outstrip the cost of proactive action.

Nevertheless, new thinking and wisdom is required to translate the economic benefits and costs into financial terms, such as through innovative financial mechanisms including payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity offsetting mechanisms.



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## What news to expect in Nagoya?

COP10 will be critical in terms of its ability to mobilize financial resources for implementing the Convention's 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and achieving its three objectives. Six major ideas are being circulated for the Conference:

1. Whether or not to establish measurable funding targets? The proposed targets on the table include: a doubling of international flows destined to biodiversity objectives; a tenfold increase in financial capacity; or a 100 fold increase in financial resources. A realistic level of ambition will require objective assessments by all stakeholders and balanced consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
2. To what extent will the Convention make use of the catalytic role of the Global Environment Facility in mobilizing resources? Several new trust funds are being proposed and their feasibility will be demonstrated by the willingness of donors to announce that they will commit resources to them.
3. To what extent Governments are willing to take up the Convention's strategy for resource mobilization at the country level? This suggests that Governments elaborate national strategies for resource mobilization, perhaps as part of their updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
4. Many ideas for innovative financial mechanisms have been developed in the past few years, but more research and debate are still needed. Governments already agreed to a global discussion on payments for ecosystem services and other innovative financial mechanisms but should provide more clarity on basic parameters of such a global discussion, including required voluntary contributions for funding.
5. Whether or not Governments will agree to undertake rapid national economic assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services? The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) study has assessed the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services to support decision-making at the international level. But economics of ecosystems and biodiversity has been much less developed at the national level, and national decision-makers are much less informed.
6. How will Governments finance the list of concrete activities that they recently agreed to support in the Convention's Strategy for Resource Mobilization? – Enhanced support capacity of the global secretariat is an example of such activities.

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