

Bringing science to politics: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Dear Colleagues and Friends!

During the High-Level Segment at COP 9 the ministers, deputy ministers and state secretaries of almost 160 countries demonstrated great leadership and proved instrumental for achieving significant progress during COP 9. The Chair's Conclusions contain the "Bonn Agenda on Global Biodiversity". This Agenda highlights the aspects particularly crucial for the CBD process up to COP 10 in Japan under the German Presidency and thus constitutes our roadmap to Nagoya.

Among other things we underlined that biodiversity needs an effective science-policy interface, and we thus support the establishment of the "Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" (IPBES) under the guidance of UNEP.

On the first day of the Bonn meeting Germany took over the CBD Chair until COP 10. We are aware of the major responsibility we bear in ensuring the decisions taken in Bonn are implemented fully and in good time. I promised you that over the next two years we would fulfil this responsible role and resolutely advance implementation of the Bonn decisions in close cooperation with the Parties.

I would therefore like to encourage you to participate in and actively contribute to the "Ad hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" to be held on 10 - 12 November 2008 at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre in Putrajaya, Malaysia. This meeting gives us the first opportunity after COP 9 to prove that we are serious about our decisions taken in Bonn. We now can take a big step forward and demonstrate our commitment to enhancing the quantity and quality of scientific information available to institutions and organisations at different levels. We need strong recommendations to be addressed at the UNEP Governing Council in February 2009 in order to establish the IPBES in the same year.

Let me thank you again for your trust and cooperation!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sigmar Gabriel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and 'G'.

Sigmar Gabriel
Federal Environment Minister - Germany