



Ref: SCBD/SEL/DO/42839

13 October 2004

Dear Professor Maathai,

On behalf of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and myself, I wish to join the rest of the global community in congratulating you on winning the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize for your contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. This award comes as a well-deserved recognition and appreciation of your tireless efforts in promoting environmental conservation, human rights, and the advancement of women. It also underlines the inter-linkages between environmental governance, access to natural resources, human rights and peace, so clearly demonstrated by your work over the past three decades. Resource conflicts arising from poor governance arrangements, environmental degradation, and competition for access are a threat to the livelihoods of many rural communities, especially women, and to peace within and between nations.

For over thirty years, you have assumed the role of a dedicated environmentalist; a human rights campaigner; and a champion of the reform agenda in your country. We commend your vision, commitment and passion to improve the human condition by promoting the sustainable use of natural resources through practical action at the local level. The results of your efforts have further demonstrated the imperative of thinking globally and acting locally. As the first African woman to win this coveted award, you are a testament to the belief that one person can make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Hamdallah Zedan
Executive Secretary

Professor Wangari Maathai
Assistant Minister
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Nairobi, Kenya

Fax: 254 20 272 7622

