

## Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

PROTECT BIODIVERSITY IN DRYLANDS

22 May
2006

ACHIEVING THE 2010 TARGET!

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) warmly welcomes the election of Mr. Achim Steiner as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

"While in Curitiba, Brazil actively engaged in the preparation of the largest gathering on biodiversity ever in the richest biodiversity country in the world, the Secretariat has received and welcomes the news for the environment family, UNEP and its friends. "Mr. Steiner is an accomplished leader in the field of sustainable development" said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaf, Executive Secretary of the CBD Secretariat.

"The Secretariat looks forward to working closely with the new Executive Director of UNEP in the implementation of the Curitiba Outcome for enhancing the three objectives of the CBD. The Secretariat is delighted to welcome Mr. Steiner at the High-level Segment of the CBD COP8 on 27 March which will gather more than 100 ministers to agree on how to enhance the international efforts to achieve the Heads of State commitment of reducing by 2010 the loss of biodiversity", Mr. Djoghlaf said.