



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL  
DIVERSITY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**The largest biodiversity meeting in decades meets in Brazil to adopt a roadmap to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target and save life on earth**

Curitiba, 16 March 2006 – The ecological capital city of Brazil, Curitiba will be the host to the largest biodiversity gathering since the World Review Summit of September last year when 154 Heads of state recommitted themselves to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. More than 3000 delegates and 100 ministers in charge of biodiversity will assemble in Curitiba, Brazil from 20 to 31 March 2006 for the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

“This will be a landmark meeting” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity. “Humanity stands at a defining moment. Never before in the history of our planet have we seen such a rate of depletion of the biodiversity of our planet. We are on the verge of the greatest extinction crisis since the dinosaurs vanished millions of years ago. Nature is talking to us and we should listen and act now.”

“Curitiba, Brazil, one of the most ecologically friendly cities in the world will be the place to write a new page in the history of the Convention” declared Mr. Djoghlaif. “If Rio was the birthplace of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Curitiba is the place to adopt a road map to achieve the biodiversity promise of the Heads of State.”

In announcing this important meeting H.E. Marina Silva , Minister of Environment of Brazil said “the world can count on Brazil to protect biodiversity.” Recent announcements are a vibrant testimony of this commitment. Indeed the Curitiba meeting takes place in the wake not only of the announcement by the President of Brazil, H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, to place 6.4 million hectares of the Amazon rain forest, an area more than twice the size of Belgium, under direct environmental protection, but also following the recent joint declaration by President Lula da Silva and British Prime Minister Tony Blair which emphasized a commitment by the two countries to the three objectives of the Convention

“The recent agreement between President of Brazil HE Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Mr. Tony Blair to enhance the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention including those related to poverty alleviation must be applauded as a major contribution to achieving the biodiversity promises made by the Heads of State and is an historical example that needs to be followed.” said Dr. Djoghlaif.

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## Notes for Journalists

The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-8) will be held 20-31 March 2006 at the Convention and Exhibition Center (Expo Trade) in Curitiba, Brazil.

The main outcome of the meeting will be to give a new impetus to the Convention and agree on a "roadmap" to achieve the 2010 Biodiversity Target: of achieving a significant reduction in the rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010, as a contribution to poverty alleviation and the Millennium Development Goals;

Other expected outcomes of the meeting include:

- a new impetus to the negotiation of an international regime on access and benefit-sharing, one of the three pillars of the Convention;
  - the adoption of a set of measures and objectives for the protection and sustainable use of the vulnerable biodiversity of islands;
  - review of progress and agreement on future priorities for the preservation, maintenance and promotion of traditional knowledge relevant to biological diversity;
  - agreement on the second phase of a work programme on dry and sub-humid lands taking into account the international year on deserts and desertification;
  - To further advance the scientific work of the Convention on taxonomy within the framework of a global partnership;
  - To adopt new initiatives to raise awareness globally on the seriousness and grave consequences of the biodiversity crisis;
1. Further details about the meeting, including background documents, are available on the Convention website at: <http://www.biodiv.org/meetings/cop8mop3/default.shtml>

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