



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

PRESS RELEASE

For use of the media only;
Not an official document.

*Professor Jeffrey Sachs and the Convention on Biological Diversity to collaborate
on stemming biodiversity loss*

Montreal – 10 November 2006: Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia, Director of the United Nations Millennium Project, and a Special Advisor to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, yesterday paid a visit to the headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to discuss collaboration for the mainstreaming of biodiversity into Millennium Project activities. The visit took place in the wake of the recommendation of the Secretary-General submitted to the current session of the United Nations General Assembly aimed at integrating the 2010 Biodiversity Target into the Millennium Development Goals. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002, 110 Heads of State and Government undertook to substantially reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010. Because biodiversity is the most important economic asset of developing countries, the Secretary-General has suggested its integration into the Millennium Development Goals and, in particular, the goal of ensuring the sustainability of the environment for alleviating poverty and eliminating hunger in the world

In the meeting with the Executive Secretary, it was agreed that the Millennium Project will assist in achieving the 2010 target through five pilot projects that will aim to integrate biodiversity and the 2010 target into the following sectors: forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism and urban development. Following the initiation of the projects, the results will be submitted to the High-Level Segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-9) to be held in Bonn, Germany in May 2008.

“The fact that the Director of the Millennium Project is committed to integrating biodiversity in this unique initiative is a major step towards integrating biodiversity into the development sector and achieving the 2010 target,” Mr. Djoghlaif said.

Professor Sachs strongly insisted that a framework to protect against biodiversity loss must be in place by 2010, in language that everybody understands. “We must not wait until 2010 to change the trend of biodiversity loss,” said Professor Sachs.

Information for Journalists:

The Millennium Project

The Millennium Project was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2002 to develop a concrete action plan for the world to reverse the grinding poverty, hunger and disease affecting billions of people. Headed by Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the Millennium Project is an independent advisory body and presented its final recommendations, ***Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*** to the Secretary-General in January 2005. The Millennium Project has been asked to continue operating in an advisory capacity through the end of 2006.

The Millennium Promise

The Millennium Promise's mission is to end extreme poverty by 2025. In support of this goal, the Millennium Promise's unique focus is to foster coordinated action and collaborations among individuals, governments, corporations and non-governmental organizations to address the root causes and symptoms of extreme poverty.

The work of the Millennium Promise is guided by the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (the "MDGs"), eight globally-endorsed objectives aimed at eradicating the multidimensional sources of poverty. Their flagship initiative, the [Millennium Villages](#) project, applies scientific research, economic analysis and international development expertise to the practical achievement of these goals at the community level. This project is overseen by a Scientific Council of world-leading scientists and development practitioners drawn from the [UN Millennium Project](#) and [The Earth Institute at Columbia University](#). A Board of Directors comprised of public and private sector leaders lend their combined business acumen and extensive international development experience to building effective programs with guaranteed delivery of results.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity is one of the most broadly subscribed international environmental treaties in the world. Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro Brazil in 1992, it currently has 189 Parties—188 States and the European Community— who have committed themselves to its three main objectives: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal.

For more information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: marie.khan@biodiv.org