



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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Biodiversity and Climate Change

CBD SECRETARIAT AND IUCN—THE WORLD CONSERVATION UNION SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ENHANCE COOPERATION

Paris – 11 July 2007. A Memorandum of Understanding geared towards enhancing the cooperation and collaboration between the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and IUCN–The World Conservation Union was signed today by the two organizations on the margins of the second meeting of the Convention’s Working Group on review of Implementation (WGRI-2) being held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris from 9 to 13 July.

Specifically, the Memorandum aims to support the integration of biodiversity in European development cooperation, and pays particular attention to the implementation of the Message from Paris, as agreed upon in article 2 of the memorandum of understanding signed on 11 June 2007 between Countdown 2010 and the CBD Secretariat.

Mr. Tamas Marghescu, IUCN Regional Director, said the “Memorandum will reinforce the cooperation between SCBD and IUCN in integrating CBD objectives into the development cooperation agenda.”

Mr. Ahmed Djoghla, Executive Secretary of the Convention, said, “It is befitting that the Memorandum be signed at a time when the G8, under the German presidency, has put biodiversity on its agenda, which has paved the way for Japan as the Chair of next year’s G8 Summit to also pledge to make biodiversity a priority agenda item. It is also befitting that this agreement is being signed here in Paris at time when the 365 participants to WGRI 2 are discussing the ways and means to integrate biodiversity into development plans and strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals.”

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 in 1992, it currently has 190 Parties—189 States and the European Community—who have committed themselves to its three main goals: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and the equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention is located in Montreal. For additional information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: marie.khan@cbd.int