



CBD

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ

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CBD SECRETARIAT RECEIVES OZONE PROTECTION AWARD

Montreal 21 September 2007 - The CBD Secretariat has received a Twentieth Anniversary Ozone Protection Award in the Partners Award category in recognition of its role as a member of the Green Customs Initiative (GCI) in the development and implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

As part of the celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the Montreal Protocol, Mr. Marco Gonzalez, the Executive Secretary of the Ozone Secretariat yesterday presented the award to the CBD Secretariat, during a ceremony at the Palais des Congrès in Montreal.

An active member of the GCI since 2005, the Convention Secretariat has worked closely with the other GCI partner organizations: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Secretariats of the Basel, CITES, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, the Montreal Protocol, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the World Customs Organization (WCO) and Interpol.

The GCI was established in 2001 with the objective of strengthening the capacities of customs services to detect and act on illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by the relevant international agreements. These commodities include ozone-depleting substances, toxic chemicals, hazardous wastes, endangered species and living modified organisms.

The CBD Secretariat has participated in several GCI activities. Recently, the Secretariat facilitated the Green Customs Train-the-Trainer Workshop for the Asia Pacific Region held in Shanghai in May 2007. The Secretariat also contributed resource materials to training workshops for Indian Ocean Islands in Mauritius and for West Africa in Dakar, Senegal, and contributed to the Training Guide for GCI.

“Coinciding with the enhanced phase of implementation of the Convention, for the Secretariat team to receive such a prestigious award in recognition of its modest contribution is a great honour,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, CBD Executive Secretary. “We are proud to have helped enhance the institutional and human capacity of customs services in order to equip them to play their role in contributing to the challenges of the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention as well as those of sister conventions including the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol.”


