



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ



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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WELCOMES EU-JAPAN COOPERATION ON 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

Japan and the European Union on 24 April pledged to cooperate towards the achievement of the 2010 Biological Diversity Target. In a joint release “Japan and the EU, acknowledging the *Potsdam Initiative-Biological Diversity 2010*, will work together for achieving by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biological diversity loss, *inter alia*, by ensuring the conservation of marine biodiversity and by increasing efforts of halting deforestation and combating illegal logging.”

Dr Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity said, “The joint statement adopted by the 17th European Union - Japan Summit provides new partnerships between all stakeholders, as well as the highest political commitment, urgently required to address the unprecedented loss of biodiversity. The biodiversity commitment of the 17th EU Japan Summit is a major step in the right direction.”

Acknowledged by the Heiligendamm Summit in June 2007, the Potsdam Initiative is a new and innovative partnership between the eight richest countries with regard to finance and technology, and the five richest countries in terms of biodiversity. “This commitment by the summit leaders is a strong political message addressed to the forthcoming Biodiversity Summit to be held in Bonn, next month with the participation of more 5000 participants and 100 ministers of the environment,” added Ahmed Djoghlaif.

The commitment by Summit leaders augurs well for the forthcoming G8 meeting of the Ministers of the Environment to be held in Kobe, Japan in May 2008 where concrete recommendations to address the biodiversity challenges are expected to be adopted and submitted to the Hokkaido G8 Summit. Indeed a strong partnership between Europe as the host of the UN Conference on Biodiversity scheduled in Bonn from 19 to 30 May and followed by the next UN conference on biodiversity in 2010 in Nagoya (Aichi prefecture), Japan is crucial to meeting the biodiversity challenges. In Nagoya the international community will be marking the International Year on Biodiversity and assessing progress in implementing the Johannesburg target of substantially reducing the loss of biodiversity by 2010.

“The biodiversity commitment of the 17th EU Japan summit is a clear demonstration of a strategic partnership between a group of countries to support the achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity Targets,” concluded Ahmed Djoghlaif.



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