



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



COMMUNIQUÉ

G8 HOKKAIDO TOYAKO SUMMIT — A HISTORIC CONTRIBUTION TO BIODIVERSITY

Montreal, 9 July 2008. On 9 July 2008, leaders of the G8 committed themselves to a ground-breaking plan for action to stem the loss of biodiversity. In the Declaration of the G8 2008 Hokkaido Toyako Summit that concluded today in Japan, the G8 endorsed a plan of action with five key elements:

- Achieving the 2010 biodiversity target;
- Sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Biodiversity and protected areas;
- Private sector engagement; and
- Strengthening scientific capabilities for monitoring biodiversity.

In endorsing the *Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity*, worked out and agreed by their Ministers of Environment in May, and that outlines the five areas for action, the G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to increase their efforts to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss significantly in order to achieve the globally agreed 2010 biodiversity target.

They also agreed to promote a “co-benefits” approach that will lead to a reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions, as well as to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. In addition, they noted the importance of improving the interface between research activities and the public and policy makers.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), strongly welcomed the adoption of the G8 2008 Summit Declaration:

“We applaud this historic declaration of the G8 from their summit in Japan – who will host the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010. Under the leadership of Japan, this Declaration and its Call for Action, builds on the work carried out by the G8 in 2007 under the presidency of Germany—host of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties this May—outlined in the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit Declaration and the Potsdam Initiative.”



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“As we move towards the 2010 biodiversity target date,” he added, “We look forward to supporting Italy and Canada in their presidencies of the G8 in 2009 and 2010, to help action among countries around the world to implement the Kobe Call for Action.”

In addition, in a declaration arising from the meeting on energy security and climate change held between leaders of the G8 and those of eight other major economies, the links between biodiversity and actions to tackle climate change were also recognized. Specifically, it was noted that action to reduce emissions, including from deforestation and forest degradation, and to increase removals by sinks in the land use, land-use change, and forestry sector, can make a contribution to stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases. It was recognized that these actions also reduce climate change impacts and can have significant co-benefits by maintaining multiple economic goods and ecological services.

Background information

Information on the proceedings and outcomes of the G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit can be found at the Summit website: <http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/>

The text on Environment and Climate Change of the 2008 G8 Summit Declaration is available at: http://www.mofa.go.jp/u_news/2/20080708_143446.html.

The Declaration of the Leaders Meeting of Major Economies on Energy Security and Climate Change is available at:
http://www.g8summit.go.jp/eng/doc/doc080709_10_en.html

The Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity of the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting, May 2008, is available at: www.env.go.jp/en/focus/attach/080610-a3.pdf.
