



# Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **TIMELY SUBMISSION OF NATIONAL REPORTS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE NAGOYA BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT AND THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING DURING THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Montreal, 21 May 2009* – As of 21 May, the following Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (a total of 46) have submitted their fourth national reports:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Bhutan, Botswana, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, European Community, Ghana, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Niue, Norway, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, United Kingdom, Viet Nam.

While the International Day for Biological Diversity is being observed worldwide, Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary, congratulates the 46 Parties that have submitted their fourth national reports and urges them to use their reports as a communication tool to raise awareness of biodiversity and mobilize public support to and participation in the implementation of the Convention, particularly in achieving the 2010 biodiversity target.

The Executive Secretary urges all other Parties to follow suit and to submit their fourth national reports as soon as possible, noting that all Parties were required to submit the fourth national report by 30 March 2009 in accordance with decision VIII/14. "The early submission of the fourth national reports by all other Parties soon after the deadline is very crucial in many aspects", he said.

These reports are critical for:

- The development of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, which is expected to be launched on the next International Day for Biodiversity (22 May, 2010);
- The success of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will review progress towards the 2010 target, and based on that, update the Strategic Plan of the Convention, including the expected development of a post-2010 biodiversity target; and
- The production of relevant educational and communication materials to be prepared for the observance of the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010.

Without a significant number of the fourth national reports the quality and relevance of all these important activities will be seriously affected. The reports are therefore key to the success of the Nagoya biodiversity summit as well as the high-level meeting with the participation of Heads of State and Government to be held during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2010 in New York.

The Secretariat, together with partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), has been providing support to countries to facilitate the early submission of the fourth national reports. A workshop was recently organized for 23 least developed countries, with the support of Norway, UNEP/GEF and other donors. Before that, with the support of Japan, the Secretariat had organized a workshop for East, South-East and South Asia. The Global Environment Facility will continue to support a total of 40 eligible countries in preparing their fourth national reports, through phase III of a medium-sized project.

