



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity established in Berlin

**Montreal, 3 June 2009** – At the closure of the high-level segment of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr. Sigmar Gabriel, Minister of the Environment of Germany, presented the “Bonn Agenda on Global Biodiversity”, which includes the mobilization of financial resources “including new and innovative funding mechanisms on all levels”. Accordingly, the First Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity was convened in Berlin on 3 June 2009.

Serving as a platform for leading figures from international politics, the United Nations Environment Programme, high-ranking representatives from associations and the business sector, and individual philanthropists, discussed options and opportunities for private financial commitment to global biodiversity conservation. Held with the participation of Mr. Matthias Machnig, State Secretary of the German Environment Ministry and moderated by Mr. Jochen Flasbarth the representative of the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, the Forum provided a unique opportunity for private donors, representatives from international NGOs, private foundations, and international financial institutions to present their respective projects and activities and to share their views on ways and means to mobilized additional financial resources in support to the three objectives of the Convention. The participants adopted the “Berlin Declaration on Private Donorship for Biodiversity”.

Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, Director General for Nature Conservation of the Federal Republic of Germany, stated that: “This forum echoed a crucial call on the dire need of financial support in biodiversity conservation. And while it will encourage other private donors, we also hope that it marks the beginning of an even greater financial engagement of private donors in biodiversity conservation.”

“I would like to pay tribute to the German people and Government for their vision and leadership,” said Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “I would also like to applaud the establishment of the Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity and pay tribute to Kris and Douglas Tompkins, two great philanthropists active in nature conservation, for kindly accepting to join forces with us.”

The forum stressed that biodiversity constitutes the indispensable foundation of our lives, is crucial for global economic and social development, and is fundamentally important for human livelihoods, poverty eradication and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Participants noted that human-induced extinction of biodiversity is still advancing at a dramatic pace. With only a few months left to reach the target agreed by Heads of State and Government in Johannesburg, to significantly reduce the loss of biological diversity by 2010, participants agreed it was urgent to scale up efforts on all levels.

“Unfortunately, the loss of biodiversity and its consequences on life on Earth is not seen as an unprecedented human crisis requiring unprecedented responses at all levels,” said Mr. Djoghlaif. “While donors have become increasingly concerned with environmental degradation, its ability to erode the stability of human society and modern civilization remains underappreciated or ignored. Biodiversity loss and climate change in particular are problems that, if left unaddressed, will seriously undermine the capacity of our planet to sustain life.”

Participants agreed that increased effort is needed to provide additional financial resources for the effective and efficient implementation of the decisions of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. They felt that governments and international financial institutions should take the lead in providing these resources, but said that NGOs, foundations and private individuals could provide additional financial support for global biodiversity protection and its sustainable use.

Participants noted with appreciation the leadership taken by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is the financial mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in creating the Earth Fund involving the private sector. The LifeWeb initiative was also highlighted as one important tool to bring together different funding sources. Participants also invited the Executive Secretary of the Convention to explore possibilities for regular private donor meetings and to start a tradition of exchange between governments, stakeholders and private donors.

“Needless to say, the generosity of private donors can only help as we take the next steps forward in preserving life on Earth. I am therefore very pleased to announce that the second Global Private Donor Forum on Biodiversity will take place on 26 October 2010 in conjunction with the high-level segment of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan,” said Mr. Djoghlaif

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits from utilization of genetic resources. With 191 Parties, the CBD has near-universal participation among countries committed to preserving life on Earth. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The headquarters of the Secretariat of the Convention are located in Montreal. For additional information, please contact Marie Aminata Khan at +1 514 287 8701; email: [marie.khan@cbd.int](mailto:marie.khan@cbd.int) or Johan Hedlund + 1 514 287-6670; email: [johan.hedlund@cbd.int](mailto:johan.hedlund@cbd.int).