



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

COMMUNIQUÉ



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY SUPPORTS GREEN ECONOMY INITIATIVE

Montreal, 26 June 2009 – More than 21 United Nations agencies, including the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, have backed the call for a world-wide transition to a low carbon, resource-efficient Green Economy able to deliver multiple economic, social and environmental opportunities in the 21st century, including halting the degradation of multi-trillion dollar ecosystem services and the underlying biodiversity.

In a statement, issued at the General Assembly Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, held in New York from 24 to 26 June, the agencies noted that the current financial and economic crisis required a collective response from the global community which would lay a solid foundation for shared growth and sustainable development. Leading economies need to ensure that developing countries have the fiscal resources to launch their own stimulus programmes and increased access to international markets for a rapid resumption of trade.

Investing stimulus funds in such sectors as energy efficient technologies, renewable energy, public transport, sustainable agriculture, environmentally friendly tourism, and the sustainable management of natural resources including ecosystems and biodiversity, reflects the conviction that a green economy can create dynamic new industries, quality jobs, and income growth while mitigating and adapting to climate change and arresting biodiversity decline.

Over the past six months numerous agencies in the United Nations system, including the Convention Secretariat, under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), have been involved in the design and implementation of a Green Economy Initiative. This initiative, which has been included as one of the several United Nations-wide Joint Crisis Initiatives proposed by the Chief Executives Board of the United Nations system, also includes the work on the second phase of the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) report. The TEEB project was welcomed by the last meeting of the Conference of the Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity, which also encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to contribute to the TEEB study, as part of their efforts to assess, as appropriate, the economic costs of the loss of biodiversity and its associated ecosystem services. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is an active partner in the TEEB assessment.

The full inter-agency statement can be viewed at:

www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=589&ArticleID=6231&l=en&t=long

The UNEP press release on UN Agencies 'Deliver as One' to Realize a Green Economy can be viewed at:

www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=589&ArticleID=6230&l=en&t=long



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