



COMMUNIQUÉ  
*Montreal, 10 July 2009*

**Biodiversity challenges and Responses on the agenda of the G8 Summit  
of L'Aquila, Italy**

From 8-10 July 2009 in L'Aquila, Italy, Leaders of the G8 endorsed a biodiversity action plan that includes support for completing the negotiation on Access and Benefit Sharing, post-2010 actions and on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The G8 Leaders recognised the intrinsic value of biodiversity and its essential contribution to economic and social well-being, as well as the fundamental role of ecosystem services in poverty reduction. They also acknowledge that biodiversity is being lost at an alarming rate, exacerbated by climate change and impact of human activities. They will reinforce their efforts to meet the 2010 Biodiversity Target to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level.

Underlining the necessity to build an ambitious and achievable common framework for biodiversity beyond 2010 to reduce the negative effects on the environment, including the issues of water and food scarcity, the G8 Leaders agreed to work toward:

- ensuring that sustainable development policies take into account the benefits of ecosystem services;
- integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into all relevant sectors;
- completing the negotiation on the international regime on Access and Benefit Sharing by 2010;
- reinforcing international, regional, national and local activities to conserve biodiversity;
- supporting the Potsdam Initiative and “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” initiative;
- engaging civil society, the business community and others in biodiversity conservation activities.



The declaration pointed to the need for robust scientific assessment and in order to improve the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services, the G8 Leaders encouraged the ongoing intergovernmental process under UNEP on the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), striving to complete this process at the earliest possible time.

Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), strongly applauds the adoption of the G8 2009 Summit Declaration: “We commend this very critical declaration of the G8 Leaders from their summit in L’Aquila. Indeed, as we approach the 2010 Biodiversity Target date, we need to redouble our efforts to work together for a sustainable future, and the G8 have shown great understanding of the most pressing issues that affect humanity. With such focus on biodiversity, we look forward to supporting Canada, the host of our Secretariat, in their presidency of the G8 in 2010 which will also be the International Year of Biodiversity”.

### ***Background information***

The G8 Leaders Declaration: Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future. Biodiversity is addressed under articles 80-82. Other environmental issues are also addressed throughout the document. [http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8\\_Allegato/G8\\_Declaration\\_08\\_07\\_09\\_final,2.pdf](http://www.g8italia2009.it/static/G8_Allegato/G8_Declaration_08_07_09_final,2.pdf)

The Potsdam Initiative

<http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/convention/F1125911898/2007-03-18-potsdamer-erklaerung.pdf>

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/index_en.htm)