



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **CBD SECRETARIAT AND THE UNEP WORLD CONSERVATION MONITORING CENTRE STRENGTHEN LINKS FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE 2010 NAGOYA BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT**

*Montreal, 3 September 2009* – Further steps have been taken to strengthen the support provided by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-WCMC) to the implementation of the work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Bonn in May 2008. Dr. Jon Hutton, Director, UNEP-WCMC, and Dr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity today signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in London that sets out a work programme of cooperation between the Convention and UNEP-WCMC.

UNEP-WCMC has been supporting the Convention—both the Parties and the Secretariat—for many years and has also been working extensively with other biodiversity-related conventions such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, including on developing synergies between conventions. An important aspect of this assistance has been on building the capacity of Parties to implement the conventions.

The multi-year programme of work builds on an agreement established in March 2006, on the existing collaboration between UNEP-WCMC and the CBD Secretariat and Parties in order to bring the technical and capacity building expertise within UNEP-WCMC to bear on the improved implementation of the Convention and enhance the preparation of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in Nagoya, Japan, from 19 to 29 October 2010. This important event will coincide with the celebration of the United Nations International Year of Biodiversity including a high-level meeting exclusively devoted to biodiversity during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly with the participation of Heads of State and Government.

The areas to be addressed in the work programme, include the Convention's programmes of work on protected areas and on marine and coastal biodiversity. WCMC will help to further develop tools to assist in the monitoring of progress in implementing the programme of work on protected areas and will provide support to the in-depth review of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, in particular regarding information on marine and coastal protected areas in the World Database on Protected Areas and marine areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

WCMC is already taking a major role in the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership that coordinates the delivery and communication of the suite of indicators measuring progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and in the preparation of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO3). WCMC will also provide information on biodiversity and climate change that supports Parties in implementing activities regarding reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and other ecosystem-based mitigation measures, and adaptation policies that take biodiversity into account.

Other key areas of work include the Convention's work on biodiversity of islands and inland waters, and its cross-cutting programmes of work, including the clearing-house mechanism, the Global Taxonomy Initiative and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

The agreement was signed at the Royal Geographical Society in London where Dr. Djoghlaf was speaking on Engaging and Educating Children on Biodiversity as the Future Guardians of our Planet, at an event organized by Airbus as part of its support to the Convention and *The Green Wave* initiative.

Welcoming the development with WCMC, Dr. Djoghlaf, said: “I am delighted with the development of this agreement for a comprehensive work programme between UNEP-WCMC and the CBD. This collaboration will, among other things, help promote the integration of biodiversity considerations in the Millennium Development Goals, provide technical support for the delivery of the 2010 biodiversity indicators and build the capacity of Parties to implement the Convention.”

Dr. Hutton expressed his appreciation of the collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity. He said: “UNEP-WCMC welcomes the opportunity to mobilize its expertise to make 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, a success, by providing information crucial for making the use of natural resources more sustainable, across the ecosystems of the Earth.”

The agreement will, through the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and other tools aid Parties in the development of post-2010 targets to be adopted at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit and prepare the implementation of the new Strategic Plan of the Convention.

## **Background Information**

### *UNEP-WCMC*

The UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)—a collaboration between the United Nations Environment Programme and WCMC 2000, a United Kingdom-based charity—acts as the biodiversity information and assessment arm of UNEP. With a vision of “a world where biodiversity counts”, the mission of WCMC is to evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making. The Centre strives to be an internationally recognized centre of excellence for the synthesis, analysis and dissemination of global biodiversity knowledge, providing authoritative, strategic and timely information for conventions, countries, organizations and companies to use in the development and implementation of their policies and decisions. The Centre has a mandate from the UNEP Governing Council to provide a range of biodiversity-related services to UNEP, the biodiversity-related conventions and their constituent States parties and other bodies in the non-governmental and private sectors. The Centre is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

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