

Communiqué

CBD Secretariat and the Institute of Energy and Environment of La Francophonie join Forces to Raise Awareness in French-Speaking Countries

Montreal, 17 November 2009 – The Institute of Energy and Environment of La Francophonie (IEPF) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have joined forces to support promotion of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) and the 2011 International Year of Forests.

On 9 November 2009, the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enable collaboration between January 2010 and January 2011 to promote the two international observances within the member countries of La Francophonie. Joint activities will include:

- Organisation of workshops for member states of La Francophonie and the CBD at the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies between May 2010 and December 2011
- Assistance to francophone member countries of the CBD in their celebration of the two international years through targeted audiovisual and written material
- Preparation and organisation of a meeting of the member states of La Francophonie as part of the high-level session on biodiversity taking place in September 2010 during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly; and for a similar meeting with focus on forests during the sixty-sixth session of the UNGA in 2011
- Establishment of an inter-active French language Internet portal on the IYB and the International Year of Forests hosted from the CBD web site.

The Institute of Energy and Environment of La Francophonie, a subsidiary organ of the International Organisation of La Francophonie, was created in 1988 with a focus on developing the energy sector within member states. In 1996, environment was added to the area of focus. Based in Quebec, the Institute's mission is to build national capacity and partnerships in the energy and environment sectors.

Commenting on the establishment of the MOU, the Director of the IEPF, Mme. Fatimata Dia Touré, said, "This memorandum will not only help raise awareness on these two important issues, but will enhance the work of the Institute within La Francophonie and that of its global partners."

Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity noted that, "The signing of this Memorandum between the Convention and the Institute of Energy and Environment of La Francophonie is of great importance as it will become an integral part of the mission of the institute which is to build cooperation for sustainable development and solidarity among the member countries of La Francophonie".