



COMMUNIQUÉ

Engaging business in the battle for life on Earth

Montreal, 27 November 2007. With financial support provided by the Netherlands under a four-year framework agreement, a major meeting on business and biodiversity opens on 30 November 2009 in Jakarta to discuss ways to enhance the engagement of industry in addressing biodiversity globally. The conference, which will bring together more than 200 companies, non-governmental organizations and Governments from all over the world, is being opened by the Indonesian Minister of Environment Professor Muhammad Hatta.

This is the third CBD Business and the 2010 Biodiversity Challenge Conference, following the first and second ones, held, respectively, in London and Sao Paulo in 2005. The conference is organized jointly with the 2009 Business and Industry Global Dialogue of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to leverage a wider participation of industry in the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

“The Jakarta meeting on business and biodiversity, taking place less than 31 days before the start of the International Year of Biodiversity, is a major milestone in engaging the business community as a full and active partner in protecting life on Earth,” stated Mr. Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. He called it the “embryo of the Davos of tomorrow and the first step in the establishment of a permanent global forum on business and biodiversity”.

The main goal of the conference is to effectively engage the business community in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity by stressing the link between biodiversity and core business and by highlighting best practices, including life-cycle approaches and incentive mechanisms. By emphasizing existing efforts under way, the event will explore ways to scale up business engagement on biodiversity issues and develop recommendations on collaborative actions that can be undertaken.

The first day of the event will open with keynote presentations highlighting biodiversity challenges at a time of economic recovery. These will be followed by a panel discussion and then parallel sessions that will explore challenges and opportunities in industrial sectors that directly affect biodiversity. The second day will deal with strategies for managing biodiversity risks and measuring, valuing and reporting business impacts. In the afternoon, parallel sessions will focus more in depth on key management tools and approaches. The third-day panels will look at concrete ways forward with special attention given to inputs for the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and new partnerships.

Governments have traditionally been considered solely responsible for managing the public services of ecosystems, but the Jakarta conference is based on the recognition that that markets can also contribute to this task, often without spending public money.

It is no coincidence that this meeting is being held in Indonesia which has 12 per cent of the world’s mammals, the second highest level after Brazil, and 17 per cent of the total species of birds, the fifth highest number in the world. Although Indonesia is one of the world’s 17 megadiverse countries, it is not immune to



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the global trends whereby human activities are creating the greatest wave of extinction of species since the natural disaster that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

With support from the Netherlands and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the conference is being convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and will be followed by an informal dialogue on business and access and benefit-sharing on 2-3 December 2009, organized by the Secretariat in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU).

The recommendations from this conference will be submitted to the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, next year.

Further details on the conference are available at www.cbd.int/business3.