



COMMUNIQUÉ

Partnership established between Conservation International and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

14 December 2009 – Conservation International and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) have established a new partnership to strengthen their cooperation towards fulfillment of the objectives of the CBD. On 4 December 2009, Russell Mittermeier, President of Conservation International (CI), and Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that provides a framework to further strengthen and promote coordination and collaboration in areas of mutual interest and expertise towards the three objectives of the Convention. The MOU was signed at a ceremony held on 4 December 2009 at the headquarters of the National Geographic Society in Washington, D.C. Also present at the ceremony were Peter Seligmann, Chairman and CEO of Conservation International, together with several senior staff of CI.

The agreement recognizes and builds upon the substantial contribution to the Convention that Conservation International has made over the years, including its support to the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on protected areas. Conservation International has a working presence in 41 countries in biodiversity hotspots and high-biodiversity wilderness areas around the world where they support countries in achieving the objectives of the CBD and support them implementing CBD programmes.

Areas of collaboration and joint activities will include mechanisms to support monitoring of the post-2010 biodiversity targets; strengthening science and policy on ecosystem services and the links between biodiversity conservation and climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts; strengthening the involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities in policy development and decision-making; support to the implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas; support to the global *LifeWeb* Initiative on protected areas; and strengthening business engagement in the implementation of the CBD.

Commenting on the new agreement, Ahmed Djoghlaif said, "The partnership with Conservation International is of great strategic importance to support the enhanced implementation efforts needed to meet the three objectives of the Convention. It will support implementation of the Nagoya Biodiversity Compact that we expect to be adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Aichi-Nagoya in October 2010. This will include a new Strategic Plan for the period 2011-2020, associated with a 2020 biodiversity target and a 2050 vision."

Russell Mittermeier said, "The CBD is the most important intergovernmental body dealing with the critically important issue of biodiversity conservation. What happens in Copenhagen over the next few days will play a major role in determining whether or not life on Earth, as we know it, survives this century and the commitments made under the CBD will contribute to ensuring that survival. We at CI are delighted to expand our collaboration with the CBD to make significant advancement on biodiversity conservation around the world, especially as we enter the all-important International Year of Biodiversity."



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
United Nations Environment Programme
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800, Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel : +1 514 288 2220, Fax : +1 514 288 6588
secretariat@cbd.int www.cbd.int



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Conservation International

Building upon a strong foundation of science, partnership and field demonstration, CI empowers societies to responsibly and sustainably care for nature for the well-being of humanity. With headquarters in Washington, D.C., CI works in more than 40 countries on four continents. For more information about CI, visit www.conservation.org.