

PRESS RELEASE

Japan Approves Fourth National Biodiversity Strategy

Montreal, 19 March 2010 – Following review by the Central Environment Council and in accordance with the 2008 Basic Act on Biodiversity, the Japanese cabinet on 16 March approved the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2010.

Japan thus becomes the first country to revise its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) for the third time.

“I am confident that the new National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan reflects the major agenda and discussion at the national and global levels for COP 10.” said Masaki Suzuki, Director-General, Nature Conservation Bureau, Ministry of the Environment, Japan. “We will make every effort to implement it effectively in cooperation with related stakeholders for achieving the objectives of the Convention.”

Japan’s new Strategy focuses on the role biodiversity plays in supporting life and livelihoods, and addresses some of the key drivers of biodiversity loss. Taking into account the global discussion on developing a post 2010 target, it sets short-term targets for 2020 and mid- and long-term targets for 2050, all within a 100 year perspective.

Japan is host to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to be held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, in October 2010. To promote necessary measures on biodiversity at the local and national levels, and on the global level as COP 10 President, the Strategy prioritises four issues:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into the daily life of individuals
- Rebuilding the relationship between human beings and nature in local communities
- Securing linkages between key ecosystems including forests, countryside, rivers and the sea
- Taking actions at the global level, including the science policy interface, promoting the *Satoyama* Initiative, providing assistance to developing nations and integrating the economic base.

The action plan section lists 720 actual measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the strategy, with progress to be evaluated by 35 quantitative indicators.

“Japan has once again demonstrated its leadership role by revising its national biodiversity strategy,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity. “Japan’s focus on both local and global levels, along with the sensitivity to the linkages of ecosystems, is an excellent example to follow.

I applaud this initiative by Japan and call upon others to complete their revision. I also call upon all Parties who have not yet submitted their NBSAP to mobilize resources in support of this important instrument of the Convention, and those that have done so, to be ready to follow the example of the incoming COP 10 president and initiate revision of the strategy to incorporate the expected new strategic plan of the Convention 2011- 2020 to be adopted by some 10,000 participants attending COP 10.”

Article 6 of the Convention calls upon Parties to develop National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and integrate the objectives of the Convention into cross-sectoral plans. NBSAPs are the primary tool to accomplish this. The requirement to integrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making, and mainstream issues across all sectors of the national economy and policy-making framework, are complex challenges that lie at the heart of the Convention.

To date 170 Parties have created NBSAPs. Including Japan, 32 countries have revised theirs. Another 16 are presently under revision. Only 9 Parties (including two countries - Iraq and Somalia - that recently acceded to the CBD) have yet to provide the Secretariat of the Convention information about the status of their NBSAPs.

Note to Editors:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits from utilization of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries committed to preserving life on Earth. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety a supplementary treaty to the Convention seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 156 countries and the European Community are party to the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. www.cbd.int/

2010 International Year of Biodiversity (IYB)

The United Nations declared 2010 the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB) to raise awareness about the crucial importance of biodiversity, to communicate the human costs of biodiversity loss, and to engage people, particularly youth, throughout the world in the fight to protect all life on Earth. Initiatives will be organized throughout the year to disseminate information, promote the protection of biodiversity and encourage countries, organizations, and individuals to take direct action to reduce biodiversity loss. The focal point for the year is the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/

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