

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### The President of the Philippines declares 2010 its National Year of Biodiversity

*Cali, Colombia, 24 March 2010* – On 19 February 2010, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo of the Philippines declared 2010 to be the National Year of Biodiversity (NYB) in the Philippines as a contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity

The proclamation recognizes the importance of biodiversity for human well-being, as well as that, as one of the megadiverse countries of the world, the biodiversity of the Philippines continues to face constant threats of degradation. The proclamation calls upon all agencies of the executive branch of government, to work, in collaboration with other stakeholders, to initiate activities for the National Year.

Welcoming and praising the initiative, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said “The International Year is a call to all Governments and stakeholders to join in an alliance for life on Earth. This proclamation is an example of the kinds of efforts that will be needed to raise awareness about biodiversity and its value for our lives.”

“I therefore want to thank President Macapagal Arroyo for this initiative and invite Heads of State and Government to provide leadership in protecting life on Earth when they assemble at the first-ever high-level meeting of the General Assembly on biodiversity, to be held in New York in September 2010.”

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