

## PRESS RELEASE

### **World governments build consensus on a new biodiversity vision to combat biodiversity loss, alleviate poverty and fight climate change**

*Montreal, 28 May 2010* – Governments meeting at the United Nations African Headquarters in Nairobi have agreed to the framework for a global strategy to stem the loss of our world's rich biodiversity, alleviate poverty and fight climate change.

The discussions by delegates to the third meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity have led to draft agreements on the strategic plan and on mobilizing financial resources that will be discussed by world leaders in New York in September, and later adopted by Governments at the Nagoya Biodiversity Summit in Japan in October.

The Chair of the meeting, Mr. Jochen Flasbarth of Germany, expressed his satisfaction with the meetings results: “The success of our efforts to save biodiversity requires a clear strategy and sufficient financial resources. The results of this meeting will send strong signals to the Conference of the Parties that the global community is ready to provide both. The spirit of compromise and willingness to work demonstrates that all delegates recognise that we have only one nature and one world to support our future.”

“The biodiversity meetings in Nairobi, the birthplace of the unique legal instrument that is the Convention on Biological Diversity, have demonstrated that a renewed partnership between Governments of the world and their partners to protect life is not only required but is possible,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. “This paves the way for the establishment of a global alliance for life on Earth in Nagoya later this year.”

“Our delegation is very grateful that the UN decade on biodiversity was supported by all participants. This will set the framework for all stakeholders to contribute to this global effort,” said Masayoshi Mizuno, Director of the Global Environment Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan.

The meeting was hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at its Nairobi headquarters, where the text of the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed over 18 years ago.

“UNEP is very pleased to have the chance to host these historic discussions on global biodiversity policy,” said Angela Cropper, the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, and a former Executive Secretary of the Convention.

Delegates spent the last week building the foundations for the strategic plan for the Convention. The strategic plan sets a suite of 20 SMART targets—goals that are at once strategic, measurable, ambitious yet realistic and time-bound. For the first time, the targets address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss in a way that will permit national implementation within a global framework.

The targets also address important issues for saving biodiversity including a global network of protected areas on land and sea, the interaction between climate change and biodiversity, and the important role of communication, education and public awareness. The discussions also addressed a strategy for mobilizing the financial resources needed to implement the strategic plan.

The meeting followed on the two weeks of meeting of the scientific body of the Convention. These complementary meetings have provided strong preparation for the upcoming tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

*Notes 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 of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 193 Parties, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. 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, 157 countries and the European Union are party to the Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal. For more information visit [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

### **The Working Group for Review of Implementation**

In 2002, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Strategic Plan, committing themselves to more effective and coherent implementation of the objectives of the Convention to achieve, by 2010, a significant reduction in the current rate of biodiversity loss. The 2010 target was subsequently endorsed by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in its Plan of Implementation (paragraph 44). Recognizing that, to achieve this target, more effective processes for evaluation, reporting and reviewing implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan were needed, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision VII/30, paragraph 23, in which it established the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI). The first meeting of the Working Group was held in September 2005 in Montreal. <http://www.cbd.int/wgri/first.shtml>. The second meeting of the Working Group was held from 9 to 13 July 2007 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris. <http://www.cbd.int/wgri2>.

### **The 2010 International Year of Biodiversity**

The United Nations proclaimed 2010 to be the International Year of Biodiversity, and people all over the world are working to safeguard this irreplaceable natural wealth and reduce biodiversity loss. This is vital

for current and future human wellbeing. The International Year of Biodiversity is a unique opportunity to increase understanding of the vital role that biodiversity plays in sustaining life on Earth. Visit [www.cbd.int/2010](http://www.cbd.int/2010) to find out more. Also visit the facebook page: [www.facebook.com/iyb2010](http://www.facebook.com/iyb2010)

For additional information, please contact: David Ainsworth on +1 514 833 0196 or at david.ainsworth@cbd.int. Or Johan Hedlund on +1 514 2787 7760 or at johan.hedlund@cbd.int

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