



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



## COMMUNIQUÉ

### **Establishment of Canadian “Friends of the CBD” Association to Support Canada’s Efforts in Protecting Biodiversity**

*Montreal, 30 June 2010* – The Canadian Environmental Network (RCEN) has announced that it will play host to a Canadian Friends of the Convention on Biological Diversity Association—the first of its kind worldwide.

To be developed in partnership with the Convention Secretariat, the new association will bring together stakeholders from academia, industry, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and other sectors to play an active role in meeting Canada’s commitments to the Convention on Biological Diversity and safeguarding biodiversity globally. The development follows the conclusion in November 2009 of a memorandum of understanding between RCEN and the Convention Secretariat.

“RCEN is proud of its strong partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD. The Friends of the CBD Association will not only promote greater awareness of the Convention among different sectors of Canadian society, it will also support the Convention’s implementation,” said Susan Tanner, RCEN Executive Director.

The cross-sectoral association will translate the goals of the new 10-year Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity into actions that can be implemented within the context of current domestic needs and priorities. Through strategic collaborations, the Friends of the Convention on Biological Diversity Association will support efforts to achieve the objectives of the Convention in Canada.

By creating new opportunities for collaboration, the association will serve as a catalyst for projects and partnerships that can ultimately support Canada’s efforts to protect biodiversity at home and internationally. RCEN will also connect with and encourage the establishment of similar organizations in other countries around the world.

Welcoming the initiative, Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary of the CBD said, “The Secretariat is proud to count on the support of this unique and pioneering institution that was established in 1977 and comprises 600 NGOs from coast to coast in Canada. RCEN has shown the way ahead for the success of the 2020 biodiversity strategy. The establishment of a global network of friends of the CBD is an idea whose time has come.”

In the face of increased challenges to biodiversity—starkly highlighted by the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO3)—the active involvement of civil society is crucial for the implementation of the Convention and the attainment of its objectives. The RCEN initiative has potential to greatly support implementation of the new Strategic Plan, and the Secretariat encourages civil society networks in other countries to follow this example.

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For more information on RCEN and the Friends of the CBD Association, please contact:

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Learn more about the Canadian Environmental Network at: [www.cen-rce.org](http://www.cen-rce.org).