



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**



PRESS RELEASE

World development cooperation family adopts biodiversity as a major tool for human development and poverty alleviation

Nagoya, Japan, 29, October 2010: Recognizing the key role of biodiversity for human well-being, the representatives of development agencies, development banks and development cooperation policy institutions unanimously adopted a declaration for the mainstreaming of biodiversity agenda into development plans at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-10).

The 70 stakeholders participating in the High Level Forum on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation in Nagoya, Japan, on 26 October 2010, co-hosted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), agreed on the crucial contribution of biodiversity for ensuring the ecosystems services that sustain livelihoods of all populations on Earth.

The forum was opened by Mr. Kenzo Oshima, Senior vice-president of JICA. In his remarks, he emphasized “the urgent need for advancing international cooperation in biodiversity conservation to achieve harmony between nature and human activities” by introducing some of JICA’s initiatives.

“Poverty is a pressing issue in Asia, home of 2/3 of the world’s poor. But natural renewable resources are also a basis for economic development.” stressed the vice-president of the Asian Development Bank, Ursula Schaefer-Preuss.

“ the Nagoya declaration on Biodiversity and Development is a major step in the right direction. It is the beginning of a new journey to mainstream biodiversity at the heart of the development processes and priorities. It is the beginning of a new era to make biodiversity relevant to the people of the world” said Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secrerreat of the convention on biological diversity .

Participants also recalled the resolution adopted during the 65th United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2010, stressing the importance of healthy ecosystems for the overall achievement of the Millennium Development Goals but particularly for poverty eradication. “Knowing that the poor populations will suffer, more than anyone else, from the impacts caused by nature degradation, achieving poverty reduction, requires the recognition of value of biodiversity.” said Monique Barbut, CEO of the Global Environment Facility.



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COP 10 / MOP 5

The declaration, to be deliver to the high level segments of COP 10 on 27-29 October, touches upon the necessity for common efforts to integrate the upcoming 2011-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan into development programs. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) of the CBD represent a tool in this regard. “Their consideration by national agencies can make a difference on crucial issues such as water, health and food security.” said Olav Kjørven, director for Bureau of Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme.

The declaration also recognizes the necessity to include indigenous and local communities as well as to integrate a gender perspective in order to realise successes in both environment and development goals.

“The declaration is a strong word that shows our strong will to carry out the biodiversity and development agenda.” concluded the chair, Mr. Kiyoshi Kodera, Vice president of JICA.

Note to Editors:

Biodiversity for Development Programme of the Convention on Biodiversity

Following the “Message from Paris” , adopted by the Conference on Biodiversity in European Development Cooperation held in Paris in 2006, calling for the support of biodiversity mainstreaming in partner countries and the improvement of governance for both poverty reduction and the sustainable use of biodiversity, the CBD Secretariat established the Biodiversity for Development Initiative. In close partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and supported by the French and the German governments, the initiative was officially launched during the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Bonn, Germany. Its objective is to improve the integration of the three objectives of the Convention into development processes in keeping the spirit of Article 6 (b) of the Convention.

For further information please visit: <http://www.cbd.int/development/>
